



A Postal Service worker delivers mail in San Francisco. The Postal Service is expected to announce on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013, that it will stop delivering letters and other mail on Saturdays, but continue to handle packages, a move the financially struggling agency said would save about \$2 billion annually as it looks for ways to cut cost.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

US Postal Service to end Saturday letter delivery

RON NIXON

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WASHINGTON – Saying it needed to take drastic steps to stem billions of dollars in losses, the Postal Service announced Wednesday that it would seek to stop Saturday delivery of letters, a sweeping change in the way the agency operates that immediately drew criticism from postal unions and some businesses. The agency said the change to a five-day mail delivery schedule would

occur in August and would save about \$2 billion annually. The Postal Service would continue to deliver packages on a six-day schedule, and post offices would continue to be open on Saturdays.

“Our financial condition is urgent,” Patrick R. Donahoe, the postmaster general, said at a news conference announcing the change. “This is too big of a cost savings for us to ignore.”

Donahoe said the move to end Saturday delivery was

part of a five-year plan to return the agency to profitability. Last year, the Postal Service had a net loss of \$15.9 billion. Since 2010, the agency has reduced hours at many small, rural post offices and cut staff, and also announced plans to reduce the number of its mail processing plants.

But post office officials say the cuts and staff reductions are not enough.

The agency has long sought congressional approval to end mail delivery on Saturdays. But Congress,

which continues to work on legislation to overhaul the agency, has resisted. Under a congressional mandate that has been in place since 1981, the Postal Service is required to deliver mail six days a week. But post office officials argue that since the government is operating under a stopgap budget measure, known as a continuing resolution, that mandate does not apply, giving them the authority to make the changes without congressional approval.

Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, chairman of the House Oversight Subcommittee on the Postal Service, called the action a step in the right direction. But some members of Congress called the Postal Service claim that it had the authority to go to a five-day delivery schedule dubious, setting up a potential showdown between the agency and the congressional committees that oversee it.

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House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Feb. 6, 2013. Boehner discussed his opposition to President Barack Obama's call on lawmakers to pass a package of limited spending cuts and tax changes.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

Parties map tactics on automatic budget cuts

JONATHAN WEISMAN

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WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats, sensing a shift in political momentum, said Wednesday that they were closing in on legislation to temporarily head off deep across-the-board spending cuts, convinced that once federal furloughs and layoffs begin next month, political pressure on Republicans to accept more tax increases will become irresistible.

At a closed-door retreat in Annapolis, Md., this week, Senate Democratic leaders struck a populist tone, urging the party to stand its ground in the battle over nearly \$1 trillion in military and domestic cuts over 10 years, set to begin March 1. Democrats want a temporary reprieve from those cuts, financed by a mix of spending cuts and tax loophole closings that they believe will rally public support.

A presentation by Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, who spoke along with Sens. Max Baucus of Montana and Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, ran through the huge income gains of the richest 1 percent, amid rising poverty and stagnating middle-class incomes. "Democrats need to keep fighting," said Murray, the Senate Budget Committee chairwoman.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the House

Budget Committee, said, "Republicans ultimately have to choose whether they are more interested in protecting tax breaks for Big Oil and other special interests, or protecting defense spending and the economy."

Republican leaders are no less firm that the cuts — known as sequestration — will come into force in three weeks unless Democrats agree to equivalent spending cuts elsewhere in the budget, without tax increases.

"At some point, Washington has to deal with its spending problem," Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio said Wednesday, his voice rising in frustration. "Now I've watched them kick this can down the road for 22 years since I've been here. I've had enough of it. It's time to act."

With the clock ticking and President Barack Obama calling for some action, both parties are showing some cracks in their resolve. Some Republicans with large military installations in their districts said they could support a postponement in the military cuts while negotiations continued on a broader deficit reduction plan. Fearing for Hill Air Force Base, Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, did not rule out supporting a Senate bill that closes tax loopholes and pares spending to stave off the cuts. □

US Postal Service to end Saturday letter delivery

Continued from front

"The passage of the continuing resolution did not suspend that language, as they claim, but in fact extended it," said Rep. Jose E. Serrano, D-N.Y., ranking member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, which also has jurisdiction over the Postal Service. "Rather than use very dubious legal arguments to end Saturday delivery, the USPS should work hand-in-hand with Congress to come up with a successful restructuring and reform package that allows them to become more efficient while maintaining vital services like Saturday delivery."

Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., who led a bipartisan effort to pass a postal over-

In April, the Senate passed a bill that provided retirement incentives to about 100,000 postal workers, or 18 percent of its employees, and allowed the Postal Service to recoup more than \$11 billion it overpaid into an employee pension fund. The Senate bill did not stop Saturday deliveries immediately, but it would have allowed the agency to revisit the issue in two years.

The House took no action on its overhaul bill, and the legislation died in the last Congress. The House bill would have allowed the post office to end Saturday delivery.

House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, expressed his hope that progress would be made on postal overhaul legislation but said that he

place in March. Most Americans support ending Saturday mail delivery. A New York Times/CBS News poll last year found that about 7 in 10 Americans say they would favor the change as a way to help the post office deal with billions of dollars in debt. The Obama administration also supports a five-day mail delivery schedule. But postal unions and some businesses Wednesday called the move to five-day mail delivery misguided.

"Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe's plan to end Saturday delivery is a disastrous idea that would have a profoundly negative effect on the Postal Service and on millions of customers," said Fredric Rolando, president of the National Association of Letter Car-



Patrick Donahoe, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, at U.S. Postal Service headquarters in Washington, Feb. 6, 2013. The Postal Service announced on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013, that it will stop delivering letters and other mail on Saturdays, but continue to handle packages, a move the financially struggling agency said would save about \$2 billion annually as it looks for ways to cut costs.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

haul bill last year, called the post office decision disappointing and said it was the intent of Congress that the agency provide six days of mail delivery.

But he added: "Despite my disappointment, it's hard to condemn the postmaster general for moving aggressively to do what he believes he can and must do to keep the lights on at the Postal Service, which may be only months away from insolvency."

understood the dilemma facing the Postal Service, since "Congress, in its wisdom, has tied their hands every which way in order for them to actually run the post office in a revenue-neutral way."

The new Congress is set to begin work on new legislation, but it is unclear when the legislation would be taken up as lawmakers work to avert a series of across-the-board spending cuts scheduled to take

effect. "It would be particularly harmful to small businesses, rural communities, the elderly, the disabled and others who depend on Saturday delivery for commerce and communication."

Drug delivery companies like Medco, based in Franklin Lakes, N.J., said the change would delay orders for prescription drugs, creating difficulties for patients who need their medications on time. □

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Boy Scouts postpone decision on admitting gays

LAUREN D'AVOLIO

KIRK JOHNSON

© 2013 New York Times

IRVING, Texas — The Boy Scouts of America, which reconfirmed last summer its policy banning openly gay people from participation, then said last week it was reconsidering the ban, said Wednesday that it would postpone a decision once more, until May, as talk of gays in the ranks has roiled a storied organization that carries deep emotional connection and nostalgia for millions of Americans.

An end to the national ban on gays, which the U.S. Supreme Court said in 2000 was legal free speech by a private organization, would create a huge new moment of risk, experimentation and change people on both sides of the issue. The proposal floated last week would allow local scouting councils to decide membership rules for themselves.

The proposed change created multiple fracture lines of its own. Some supporters of the ban said they feared a wave of departures by conservative church-sponsored troops, while supporters of the change said that scouting, with fewer boys every year donning the tan uniform



Scoutmaster Chris Hill leads scouts and supporters in the scout pledge during a rally at the headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America in Irving, Texas, Feb. 6, 2013. The Boy Scouts said Wednesday that it would postpone a decision on its policy banning openly gay people from participation, until May, as talk of gays in the ranks has roiled a storied organization that carries nostalgia for many Americans.

(Rex C. Curry/The New York Times)

to work for merit badges, would be revitalized. Scout leaders who favored a complete about-face on gays — prohibiting discrimination everywhere in the organization — said the compromise position by the Executive Board would still leave scouting open to accusations of homophobia by its critics, since discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation would still be allowed locally. Other scout leaders

and parents said a fracture between conservative scout councils and liberal ones could create walls — troops still banning gays disdaining gay-led troops, and vice versa — or could open the door to a new dialogue about difference and diversity.

The Boy Scouts said in a statement emailed to reporters that it had received "an outpouring of feedback from the American public" over the

proposed change. "It reinforces how deeply people care about scouting and how passionate they are about the organization," the statement said. "After careful consideration and extensive dialogue within the scouting family, along with comments from those outside the organization, the volunteer officers of the Boy Scouts of America's National Executive Board concluded that due to the

complexity of this issue, the organization needs time for a more deliberate review." The debate over the issue, according to scout leaders and parents, was shaped by two great historic forces that have defined scouting for decades: the huge role played by churches in sponsoring scout troops, and the tradition of local control that scout chapters, or councils, have had in shaping the flavor of scouting, which can differ greatly from urban downtowns to rural farm country, and from roughing-it-in-the-woods to environmental cleanup on the beach.

Maintaining local control became a crossroads of the debate. Although many of the church sponsors — almost 70 percent of local scout units are backed by a religious-based group — are culturally conservative, and might in some cases be opposed to open acceptance of gays in society, they also cherish the right to make scouting a cultural adjunct of their respective belief systems. In Mormon-led scout troops, a Mormon prayer usually opens and closes a troop's meeting, while in a Catholic group, it might be the Lord's Prayer. □

Brennan's CIA bid seen as chance to silence critics

KIMBERLY DOZIER
AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate hearing on John Brennan's nomination to head the CIA could lay bare some parts of the secret war against al-Qaida: lethal drone strikes from secret bases against even American terror suspects, harsh interrogation meth-

ods and long detention of suspects without due process.

Some of the practices produced revulsion among some in Congress and the American public, but the outcry has been muted because Brennan and others say that these harsh and secretive methods may have saved American lives.

Those issues will be front and center in the Senate Intelligence Committee hearing Thursday for Brennan — a chance for him to answer criticism that he backed the detention and interrogation policy while he served at the CIA under President George W. Bush, charges that stymied his first attempt to head the in-



Deputy National Security Adviser for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism John Brennan briefs reporters at the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

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telligence agency in 2008. Brennan has defended the missile strikes by Predator or Reaper drones as a more humane form of war. Aides have portrayed him as cautious in their use, restraining others at the CIA or military who would use them more often, even though as the White House's counterterrorism czar he has presided over an explosion of drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia.

Less than 50 strikes took place during the Bush administration while more than 360 strikes have been launched under President Barack Obama, according to the website The Long War Journal, which tracks the casualties.

Administration officials say Brennan would further limit the use of drones by the CIA and leave the majority of strikes to the military.

The CIA's drone strikes primarily focus on al-Qaeda and Taliban targets in the tribal regions of Pakistan, while the military has launched strikes against al-Qaeda targets in Yemen and Somalia.

The CIA also carries out strikes in Yemen from a base in Saudi Arabia, including one that killed three American citizens: Anwar al-Awlaki, his 16-year-old son and Samir Khan. Al-Awlaki was linked to the planning and execution of several attacks targeting U.S. and Western interests, including the attempt to down a Detroit-bound airliner in 2009 and the plot to bomb cargo planes in 2010. His

son was killed in a separate strike on a suspected al-Qaida den. Khan was an al-Qaida propagandist. The location of the base was first disclosed by The New York Times in a story that previewed Brennan's hearing, highlighting the sensitive issues that the hearings will bring into the open. The Associated Press first reported the construction of the base in June 2011 but withheld the exact location at the request of senior administration officials. Once it was disclosed, the AP considered the agreement to be no longer in place.

Democrats in Congress have begun to express stronger opposition to the use of drones, but on Wednesday Obama found an unlikely ally in Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, who expressed his "100 percent" support of the use of drones against terror suspects.

Brennan will also face questions about charges that White House officials leaked details of the administration's national security policies, including its cyberattacks against Iran's nuclear infrastructure, to burnish Obama's standing as commander in chief ahead of last year's presidential election. Brennan himself has come under fire by Republican lawmakers who believe he gave the media too many details in news conferences after the 2011 killing of al-Qaida mastermind Osama bin Laden. □

NEW ARRIVALS

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United cuts 787 flights in February

CHICAGO (AP) — United Airlines is taking the troubled Boeing 787 out of its flying plans for the rest of this month.

The airline says it has replaced its six 787s with other planes through the end of February. The 787s were grounded by the government last month.

United Continental Holdings Inc. spokeswoman Megan McCarthy says the plane swaps include new flights from Houston to Lagos, Nigeria, which were supposed to switch to a 787 in late January. She says United still plans to start new flights from Denver to Tokyo's Narita airport on March 31.

Japan's All Nippon Airways has also removed 787s from its schedule through month's end. The National Transportation Safety Board says it is weeks away from knowing what caused a 787 battery to catch fire on Jan. 7. □

Rubio to deliver GOP response to Obama

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American lawmaker often mentioned as a presidential candidate in 2016, will deliver the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address on Tuesday.

The leader of the House of Representatives, Speaker John Boehner, and Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell, both Republicans, announced the selection of Rubio on Wednesday, calling him a strong advocate of conservative principles.

Rubio will speak after Obama's prime-time address before Congress, offering a counterweight to the president's agenda. The high-profile speech also gives Rubio, a broad national audience for a party that lacks a true standard-bearer after Obama's reelection.

The 41-year-old Cuban-American lawmaker was given a prominent speaking role at last year's Republican National Convention and traveled extensively on behalf of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

He has been touted as a potential presidential can-

didate in 2016 for a party that fared poorly among Latino voters last year. In a signal of renewed outreach to Hispanic voters, Rubio's address will be delivered in both English and Spanish. Rubio has played a leading role among Republicans

taken to secure the border with Mexico. The issue is expected to be among the most highly-watched measures in Congress this year. On the economy, Rubio has said tax increases will not bring down the \$16 trillion federal debt and urged

help lay out "the Republican case of how our ideas can help people close the gap between their dreams and the opportunities to realize them."

Rubio, a former state house speaker from Miami, became a popular figure



A burst of laughter erupts during a news conference in Washington, between Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

in seeking changes on immigration, one of the top legislative priorities of the year for both parties. He has been part of a bipartisan group of senators who have proposed a plan that would allow illegal immigrants to pursue citizenship after a number of steps are

policies to promote economic growth and changes to entitlement programs. Rubio said he would discuss "how limited government and free enterprise have helped make my family's dreams come true in America."

He said the speech would

among conservative tea party activists during his improbable rise during his 2010 Senate campaign. He defeated Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, who switched to run as an independent when it became clear he would lose the Republican primary to Rubio. □



Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki listens at right as outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta speaks at the Veterans Affairs Department in Washington. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Panetta raises concerns with budget cuts

ELISABETH BUMILLER
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News Service

WASHINGTON — In the wake of President Barack Obama's appeal to Congress to stave off across-the-board military and domestic spending cuts, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta warned Wednesday that reductions from the automatic cuts would curtail U.S. naval operations in the western Pacific by as much as a third and force one-month furloughs

for as many as 800,000 Defense Department civilian employees starting this spring. "This is not a game, this is reality," Panetta said emphatically in a speech at Georgetown University, one of his last as defense secretary, in which he blasted Congress for what he said was its failure to live up to its responsibilities. "These steps would seriously damage the fragile American economy, and they would degrade our ability to respond to crisis

precisely at a time of rising instability across the globe." He added, "This is no way to govern the United States of America." He said Congress had created "a self-made crisis" and called the automatic cuts, called sequestration, "legislative madness." He described the cuts, which are scheduled to take effect on March 1, as "the most serious readiness crisis that this country is going to confront in over a decade." Panetta has been warning in dire terms for months about the effects of the across-the-board cuts, but defense budget analysts have viewed a number of his admonitions as hyperbole meant to prod Congress into making a budget deal. On Wednesday, analysts said Panetta meant it this time. "These are real, legitimate impacts," said Todd Harrison, an analyst at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a research group in Washington. Under sequestration, the Pentagon would have to cut nearly \$50 billion, or about 9 percent, of current military spending by Oct. 1. The potential cutbacks in naval operations in the western Pacific are particularly striking since they would undermine what the Obama administration has promoted as a critical part of its defense strategy — a "pivot," or rebalancing, of forces to the Asia-Pacific region to counter the increasing assertiveness of China's military. □

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Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: How is a band selected for the inaugural parade? Are all states represented? Who pays for the expenses?

-- Mary Kreisle, Atlanta

A: Bands and groups in this year's parade were selected by the Presidential Inaugural Committee, and this year's parade was organized by the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region. Applications were taken online. More than 2,800 groups -- including marching bands, mounted units and cultural organizations -- applied, and 59, representing all 50 states, were chosen, according to the Presidential Inaugural Committee's website (www.2013pic.org). Many bands and groups raised money and took donations to pay for the trips, according to published reports.

Q: What happens to all those flowers after the Rose Parade is over?

-- Susan Rosmarin, Atlanta

A: If the flowers haven't wilted, some will go to area hospitals or other organizations, the Los Angeles Times reported, but particularly warm weather causes the flowers to wilt quicker than usual.

If the flowers wilt, they are turned into compost or potpourri, according to published reports.

Vials holding flowers typically are washed and reused, according to KABC-TV in Los Angeles. The 125th annual Rose Parade was Jan. 1.

Q: Are companies prohibited from using the term "Super Bowl" in their advertising?

-- Andy Sims, Douglasville, Ga.

A: The NFL has trademarked the term "Super Bowl," so it can't be used in marketing or advertising by any company or organization -- even local restaurants and bars -- that's not an official NFL sponsor, which pays fees to be associated with the league. Companies not connect-

ed to the NFL also can't use "Super Sunday," "National Football League," "NFL" or team nicknames like "49ers" and "Ravens."

Instead, advertisers use terms like "Big Game" to describe the Super Bowl, which the league tried to trademark in 2006, before giving up on it.

Papa John's was the official pizza sponsor of the NFL last year, so Pizza Hut countered with its "Big Deal for the Big Game" promotion, and reportedly sold 2 million pizzas on the day of the game.

Q: How was the decision made to play Super Bowl XLVIII in New Jersey and in a stadium that is not in a covered venue? Has any other Super Bowl been played in the North?

-- Kathy McDonough, Peachtree Corners, Ga.

A: The NFL generally doesn't award Super Bowls to cold-weather cities, specifically ones that don't have a domed stadium, but it allowed New York/New Jersey and its new stadium to bid for Super Bowl XLVIII. Its theme was labeled "Make Some History" and played up the NFL's connection to the cold by including clips of famous games played in the snow and freezing temperatures.

In May 2010, the NFL's 32 team owners, after four rounds of voting, selected New York/New Jersey over Tampa, which has hosted four Super Bowls, and South Florida, which has hosted 10.

No Super Bowl has been played in a cold-weather city without a domed stadium.

Detroit has hosted two Super Bowls, and Minneapolis and Indianapolis each have hosted one. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league "will be prepared for the weather factor" for Super Bowl XLVIII, which is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2014, and added that the weather will "have an impact on future decisions for open-air, cold-weather sites." □



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Authorities: 4 dead in highway crash in Georgia

RUSS BYNUM

Associated Press

MONTROSE, Georgia (AP)

— More than two dozen cars, pickup trucks and tractor-trailers collided Wednesday morning in a fiery pileup on a foggy highway in the U.S. state of Georgia, killing at least four people and sending nine others to a hospital, officials said. Work crews on Interstate 16 were still clearing charred and twisted wreckage from the crash scene, which covered nearly a quarter-mile (half-kilometer) of the roadway, nearly six hours after the chain of

crashes occurred at about 8:10 a.m. Crews initially reported three deaths before finding another person dead in the wreckage later Wednesday. The Georgia State Patrol was still trying to piece together what started the series of wrecks involving 27 vehicles. Capt. Kirk McGlamery said even drivers who dodged to the side of cars crashing in front of them weren't safe from getting rear-ended off the highway's shoulder.

"It was just a chain-reaction," McGlamery said. "I talked to two individuals involved who had come



Emergency workers and firemen are at the scene of a pile up on Interstate 16 near Jeffersonville, Ga., Wednesday Feb. 6, 2013. More than two dozen vehicles collided in a fiery pileup on the foggy Georgia Interstate on Wednesday morning, killing at least three people and leaving several others hurt, officials said.

(AP Photo/Woody Marshall)

to a stop and had pulled off, one was on the shoulder and the other was trying to get out of the way, when they were struck by vehicles coming up behind them."

Officials said poor visibility likely played a big part. Weather forecasts called for dense fog Wednesday morning, and McGlamery said motorists reported smoke across the highway. He said a controlled burn had been permitted nearby the day before, and troopers were trying to find out if burning continued into Wednesday. □

US to cut carrier fleet in Persian Gulf to one

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is cutting its aircraft carrier presence in the Gulf region from two carriers to one, the Defense Department said Wednesday, in a move that represents one of the most significant effects of budget cuts on the U.S. military presence overseas.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has approved keeping just one carrier in the Gulf region. The U.S. has maintained two aircraft carrier groups in the Gulf for most of the last two years. Plans for the USS Harry S Truman to deploy to the Gulf later this week have been canceled. The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, brought home from the Gulf in December for the resurfacing of its flight deck and other maintenance, will return later this month and stay until about summer. The USS John C. Stennis will leave the Gulf and return home after the Eisenhower arrives. Pentagon press secretary George Little issued a statement Wednesday confirming the carrier decision after The Associated Press, citing unidentified U.S. officials, reported Panetta's move.

Little said the Navy asked Panetta to delay the deployments of the Truman and the USS Gettysburg, a guided-missile cruiser, because of budget uncertainty.

"This prudent decision enables the U.S. Navy to maintain these ships to deploy on short notice in the event they are needed to respond to national security contingencies," Little said, adding that the U.S. will maintain "robust military presence" in the region. □

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Syria, Sunni-Shiite split arise at Muslim summit

HAMZA HENDAWI
 Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Islamic summit that opened in Egypt on Wednesday lay bare the multiple divisions within the Muslim and Arab worlds, with conflicting approaches to the Syrian civil war exposing the Sunni-Shiite sectarian fault lines that have torn the region for years.

Egypt's Islamist leader sharply criticized President Bashar Assad's embattled regime in his address to the two-day summit, though he hedged his comments by only making an indirect call for the Syrian leader to step down. The Syrian government "must read history and grasp its immortal message: It is the people who remain and those who put their personal interests before those of their people will inevitably go," Egyptian President Mo-



Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad flashes the victory sign as he attends the 12th summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

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to be worried that his grip on power could weaken if the Sunni majority in neighboring Syria succeeds in overthrowing Assad and a new Sunni leadership takes power in Damascus. Al-Maliki faces a wave of protests against his rule in Iraq's Sunni provinces and has had to fight Sunni extremists linked to al-Qaida for most of his time in office. "Syria suffers from violence, killings and sabotage," he said and called on the summit to "find an exit and peaceful solution for its conflict." He called on member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the summit's organizer, to unite against terror, suggesting that he, like the regime in Damascus, views the rebels fighting the Syrian regime as terrorists. At least 60,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict, where the rebel side is heavy on Muslim militants, many of them linked to al-Qaida. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been displaced, and many of them have found refuge in neighboring nations Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.

Sunni nations such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have thrown their weight behind the rebels, while Shiite heavyweight Iran is Damascus' closest regional ally. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whose Shiite-led government has been ambivalent about the Syrian conflict, offered a more cautious approach. In power for nearly seven years, al-Maliki is believed

hammed Morsi said. The conflict in Syria has been deeply divisive in the Middle East, pitting a largely Sunni opposition against a regime dominated by Assad's Alawite minority — a heterodox offshoot of Shiite Islam.

Saudi Crown Prince Salman, who was heading his country's delegation to the OIC summit, left Egypt just before the mini-summit was held. □



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Tunisia to shake-up government after assassination



Protesters remove barriers to demonstrate after the killing of opposition leader Chokri Belaid in Tunis, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013. (AP Photo/Amine Landoulsi)

B. B. BOUAZZA
PAUL SCHEMME

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Shaken by the assassination of a prominent leftist opposition leader that unleashed major protests, Tunisia's prime minister announced Wednesday that he would form a new government of technocrats to guide the country to elections "as soon as possible."

The decision by Prime Min-

ister Hamadi Jebali was a clear concession to the opposition, which has long demanded a reshuffle of the Islamist-dominated government. It also came hours after the first assassination of a political leader in post-revolutionary Tunisia.

The killing of 48-year-old Chokri Belaid, a secularist and fierce critic of Ennahda, the moderate ruling Islamist party, marked

an escalation in the country's political violence and sparked allegations of government negligence—even outright complicity. It also bolstered fears that Tunisia's transition to democracy will be far more chaotic than originally hoped. "This is a sad day that shook the country regardless of our differences," Jebali said in an address to the nation, whose capital city still smelled of the

tear gas lobbed at protesters angry over the killing. "We are at a crossroads, and we will learn from it to make a peaceful Tunisia, secure and pluralist, where we may differ but not kill each other."

The ruling coalition, led by Jebali's Ennahda party, had been in stalled negotiations with opposition parties to expand the coalition and redistribute ministerial portfolios in an

effort to calm the country's fractious politics. Elections had been expected for the summer, but an exact date depended on lawmakers finishing work on a new constitution.

Jebali said the new ministers in the technocratic government "would not belong to any party and its task would be limited to organizing elections as soon as possible with a neutral administration." □



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Questions remain over Russian dissident's suicide

MAX SEDDON
 Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian opposition activist who committed suicide at a Dutch deportation center after his request for political asylum was turned down was laid to rest Wednesday, as fellow activists demanded answers from the Netherlands over the murky circumstances of his death. Alexander Dolmatov, a 36-year-old rocket engineer who feared arrest in Russia after an opposition protest turned violent in May, was taken to the prison-like deportation center in Rotterdam on the night

of Jan. 16. The next morning he was found dead in his cell.

Dutch authorities are investigating and have not released an official cause of death, but his background in missiles and an enigmatic suicide note have fueled speculation about the case.

Fellow activists from The Other Russia, a punkish and anti-globalist opposition party with a cultish devotion to their leader, novelist Eduard Limonov, and other critics are pointing to Dutch immigration officials as the ones at fault and saying Dolmatov never should have been in de-



Opposition leader Sergei Udaltsov, left, fights with some of supporters of another opposition leader Eduard Limonov, unseen, as he comes to pay his last respects to Alexander Dolmatov during a mourning ceremony in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Mikhail Metzel)

tention.

A few dozen, dark-jacketed members came to pay their respects at the Moscow wake, where Limonov said he would "demand an investigation into what happened, because there are a lot of absolutely improbable circumstances coming up." Dolmatov fled to the Netherlands believing he would

quickly earn refugee status given concern in the West over a Kremlin crackdown on the opposition, his friends have been quoted as saying. Already, one participant in the May protest, which took place on the eve of President Vladimir Putin's inauguration for a third term, has been sentenced to 4 1/2 years in prison and about a dozen

others are awaiting trial. Dolmatov reported coming under pressure from Russia's security service, whose agents he claimed had threatened to get him fired from his job at a military plant. Immediately after he left for the Netherlands, the apartment where he lived with his mother was searched by police. □

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Bulgaria IDs 2 remaining terror suspects

VESELIN TOSHKOV
 Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — The two living suspects behind a bus attack that killed five Israeli tourists in Bulgaria last year have been identified and both are now living in Lebanon, a top Bulgarian security official said Wednesday.

The bomb that exploded July 18 as the Israeli tourists

were boarding a bus at the airport in Burgas also killed a Bulgarian bus driver and the suspected bomber. Three men are suspected in the attack, including the dead bomber. On Tuesday, an official Bulgarian report said investigators had "well-grounded reasons to suggest" that two of the suspects belonged to the militant

wing of the Islamist group Hezbollah.

The report said they had been living in Lebanon for years, one with a Canadian passport and the other with an Australian one.

Stanimir Florov, head of Bulgaria's anti-terror unit, said Wednesday that the names of the suspects were known, they were now based in the same country and "we have asked Lebanese authorities to assist in our investigation." He did not elaborate. □

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Venezuelan politics heating up in Chavez's absence

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Corruption accusations and insults are flying between allies and opponents of President Hugo Chavez nearly two months after the Venezuelan leader disappeared from the political stage to undergo cancer surgery in Cuba.

Analysts say the increasingly heated attacks between the two camps could be a preamble to a bruising campaign ahead of a possible new presidential election this year.

National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello on Tuesday night accused three lawmakers in the Justice First party of involvement in corruption.

Opposition leaders responded on Wednesday by saying that members of the party are totally innocent and that senior

government officials are the ones who have enriched themselves during Chavez's 14 years in office. Political analyst Jose Vicente Carrasquero said Chavez's camp is trying to "demoralize the opposition" and hurt it politically ahead of a possible presidential election. A new vote would be called within 30 days if Chavez were to die or step down from the presidency.

By raising corruption claims, the government is also seeking to deflect attention from problems such as shortages of some staple foods, a weakening currency and rampant violent crime, said Carrasquero, a political science professor at Simon Bolivar University in Caracas.

"They need to position themselves as winners, and at the time go about presenting the opposition (in a

light that suggests) it's going to be defeated in an election," Carrasquero told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. Opposition politicians have responded to the government's verbal attacks by stepping up their own accusations and rhetoric in an apparent bid to show

they remain a united political movement that won't bow to threats by Chavez's lieutenants.

Opposition leader Henrique Capriles, who lost to Chavez in October and is considered the most likely candidate to run in a new election, responded to the accusations against his Jus-

tice First party by calling the National Assembly's leader "Al Capone" in a message on his Twitter account.

Cabello answered by likening Capriles to another crime boss, the late Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar.

"What they want to do here is come after me. What they want here is to demoralize you all," Capriles told supporters in a televised speech Wednesday.

The opposition has accused Cabello of corruption for his handling of the Miranda state governor's office between 2004 and 2008, though he never faced any charges. Capriles reiterated those accusations and then charged that after he defeated Cabello in the 2008 gubernatorial vote, Cabello's group stripped the office of everything of value, down to its lamps and toilets. □



A supporter of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez wears glasses that reads in Spanish "I am Chavez" while attending a demonstration in Caracas, Venezuela.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

Ireland readies deal to ease costs of bank bailout

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — The Irish government put lawmakers on standby to pass emergency legislation Wednesday as a deal neared with the European Central Bank to reform the repayment terms of Ireland's colossal bank-bailout bill, a move designed to reduce Ireland's deficits and ease its return to normal borrowing. Aides to Finance Minister Michael Noonan said he hoped to unveil terms of the agreement with euro-zone banking chiefs in Ireland's parliament Wednesday night.

But government officials later said negotiations with ECB partners might continue overnight and delay the bill's passage to Thursday.

The bill would authorize the immediate liquidation of one of Ireland's two government-owned "bad banks," the Irish Bank Resolution Corp. or IBRC, which for the past two years has managed the toxic property-based loans of two collapsed banks, Anglo Irish and Irish Nationwide. The IBRC chairman, Alan Dukes, said its board has already been dissolved as of Wednesday night and

responsibility handed over to a consulting firm that will manage the liquidation.

Under terms of a 2010 agreement between Ireland's previous government and ECB chiefs, Ireland must pay €3.06 billion (\$4.1 billion) annually through 2023 and smaller amounts through 2031 to cover the costs of repaying the global bondholders of Anglo and Irish Nationwide. The total cost of

that agreement including interest is €48 billion (\$65 billion) — or more than

€10,000 (\$13,500) for every man, woman and child in Ireland. □

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Mexico: Culprits sought in rape of 6 Spaniards

BERTHA RAMOS
MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)

— Armed, masked men who raped six Spanish tourists in the Mexican resort of Acapulco spared the lone Mexican woman in the group because of her nationality, adding yet another macabre twist to the case that has further hurt the resort's already battered reputation.

It was unclear whether the group of 12 Spaniards who fell prey to the attack had been targeted because of their nationality in the three-hour ordeal at a rented house on a tranquil beach dotted with restaurants, small hotels and rental homes. Most of the six men and six women live

in Mexico City and were vacationing in Acapulco. The five attackers burst into the house and held the group at gunpoint, said Acapulco Mayor Luis Walton. They tied up the six men with phone cords and bathing suit straps and then raped the six Spanish women. Walton said the Spaniards had been "escorted," apparently under police protection, out of Acapulco on Tuesday. Guerrero state Attorney General Martha Garzon told local media that the attackers' motive was "robbery, and to have fun," and they drank mescal they found at the house after committing the rapes. The lone Mexican woman, who's married to one of the Spaniards, "was

saved by the fact that she is Mexican."

"She says she identified herself to the (attackers) and asked not to be raped, and they told her that she had passed the test by being Mexican and they didn't touch her," Garzon told Radio Formula. While some Mexicans harbor resentment against Spaniards dating to colonial times, the Spaniards may have been targeted for other reasons, like their appearance or possessions. Authorities and residents of Acapulco struggled to come to terms with the attack and its near-certain effect on the area's tourism industry, amid concerns that such violence could affect the draw of other, safer Mexican resorts. □



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Ivan Marquez, chief negotiator for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, talks with the journalists before attending the continuation of peace talks with negotiators from Colombia's government in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013. (AP Photo/Ismael Francisco)

Colombia's FARC officials pushing drug legalization

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia's main rebel army called on the government Wednesday to legalize the cultivation of marijuana, poppy and coca leaf, as well as the personal consumption of drugs derived from those plants.

The chief negotiator of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, presented the proposal as part of the rebels' position in peace talks launched in Norway in October and begun in earnest the following month in Havana.

"Legalizing consumption accompanied by robust education of young people ... as was done in the past with the use of tobacco and alcohol can be done with cocaine," said the FARC commander, Ivan Marquez. The FARC has long taxed the cultivation of coca, the base ingredient of cocaine, to bankroll its armed struggle. The Colombian and U.S. governments accuse it of more direct involvement in the illegal narcotics trade, including smuggling cocaine into Venezuela, though the rebels deny those allegations.

All Colombia's illegal armed groups, including the FARC's far-right paramilitary foes, have at least partially funded themselves through the illegal drug trade.

Colombia is asking the reb-

els to help end the drug trade as one condition for peace. But skeptical analysts have expressed doubt that local FARC commanders who benefit from the drug trade can be persuaded to renounce its lure as part of an eventual peace deal.

Drug legalization was one of a number of proposals the FARC made to government negotiators Wednesday at the talks, which have centered on land reform as the first of six agenda items to be tackled. The concentration of Colombia's richest agricultural lands in the hands of a small minority is a root cause of the conflict.

Marquez said that along with legalization, Colombia must solve "the problem of farmers who are forced by economic necessity to cultivate coca leaf." Such farmers, however, make only a small fraction of the profit, with the vast majority of the money in the illegal drugs trade going to traffickers and dealers.

A document released by the FARC also called for controls on water usage and mining, disincentives for extensive cattle ranching, respect for local communities and the creation of a regulatory body that would be called the National Land Council.

Some personal consumption and possession is already permitted within limits in Colombia. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Queen Elections at the Westin a fun-tastic affair!

PALM BEACH – Every year, the Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba holds a just-for-fun Carnival Queen election of their own—with nominees coming from various departments throughout the resort.

Guest judges come to

judge Best Speech, Best Costume, Best Show, and Most Popular.

This year, Candida Hanley from the resort's Palm Beach Casino took first prize (as well as Best Speech and Best Costume).

First runner-up and winner

of Best Show and Most Popular was Itala Lugo from the Kitchen, with Ludwina Geerman from Engineering named 2nd runner-up. Presiding over the festivities were Prins Star, Eduard Tromp, and Prins Wood, Giovannie Mercera. □



Amazonia enjoys a loyal following among island visitors

PALM BEACH – With its fabulous 52-item fresh salad bar and sixteen prime cuts of perfectly grilled meats, just-baked homemade breads, and sinfully decadent homemade desserts, it's no surprise that Amazonia Churrascaria has developed a loyal following of both locals and island visitors over the years.

Our roving photographer caught several repeat visitors enjoying their meal at Aruba's most popular Brazilian-style steakhouse.

Mr. & Mrs. Gold, from Washington, DC, celebrated their 17th visit to the island with a dinner at Amazonia, while the Arena, Klein and Greco families commemorated 20 years of Aruba vacations, returning to Amazonia every year that they're on the island.

Also, enjoying their first - but certainly not last - visit to Amazonia Churrascaria: a happy family from New Jersey, and Gus Malone, who was excited to visit Aruba and Amazonia for the first time, accompanied by his parents.

Amazonia Churrascaria

first opened in Aruba in 2001, as the first original Churrascaria.

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ering a truly unique dining experience, perfectly suited for large and small families, diverse groups, celebrations, and intimate dinners for two, over great food and fine wine.□



Beauty On The Beach

*Kenna and
Carolina Armstrong*

Kenna and Caroline are with their parents on vacation in Aruba, it is their first visit to the island. They are staying at Hyatt Regency Aruba. What they love the most of Aruba are the beaches.



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Palm Beach Plaza Mall and partake in a fun couple's game where you will get a chance to win great prizes. On the 13th we will pick six of these couples which will participate on the 14th at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Come visit us at the Palm beach Plaza Mall with our spacious free parking lot where you are guaranteed a great shopping experience! Want a great day out? Come visit us; we have great movie theaters, a bowling alley, a delicious food court, delightful restaurants, and much more!

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Loyal Visitors honored by ATA at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minis-

ter of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Paul and Laura Coyle from Rochester, NH, as Distinguished Visitors, and Harlan and Eva Handler from Pittsburgh, PA. Both couples love the Is-

land very much, because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel, representing ATA, together with Luzdary Leest, representing the Marriott Surf Club.□

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Argentina's Federico Delbonis during a VTR Open tennis match in Vina del Mar, Chile, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

Associated Press

Nadal starts comeback; French 'light years' away

STEPHEN WADE
AP Sports Writer

VINA DEL MAR, Chile (AP) — Rafael Nadal has taken a few shaky steps in a comeback he hopes will give him a fighting chance of winning his eighth French Open title.

After being away from singles tennis for more than seven months while getting therapy on an injured left knee, Nadal defeated Federico Delbonis of Argentina 6-3, 6-2 on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the VTR Open.

On Tuesday he advanced in doubles with partner Juan Monaco.

Nadal was pushed and won only one point on clay in the first two games against Delbonis.

"For me, Roland Garros (French Open) is light years away," he said. "All I see is doubles tomorrow and my singles again here on Friday." □

G-FORCE

U.S. skier Ted Ligety wins super-G world title

United States' Ted Ligety smiles after winning the men's super-G at the Alpine skiing world championships in Schladming, Austria, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

Associated Press
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A day after Vonn's crash, Ligety takes gold

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

SCHLADMING, Austria (AP)

— With Lindsey Vonn out injured now and Bode Miller already out for the season, it's Ted Ligety's turn to lead the U.S. Ski Team.

A day after Vonn's season-ending crash at the world championships, Ligety showed off his rapidly improving speed skills to win the first super-G of his career in the marquee event of the season. The timing was not lost on Ligety. "It's definitely (tough) losing those teammates that have been so good over so many years and really carried the flag of the U.S.," Ligety said after his first career super-G win. "It's



United States' Ted Ligety speeds down the course during the men's super-G, at the Alpine skiing world championships in Schladming, Austria, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

Associated Press

tough losing them, for sure, but it's an individual sport, too. You're out there competing for yourself." Vonn, meanwhile, will head home for surgery in Colorado next week after tearing two ligaments in her right knee and breaking a bone in her lower leg. Still, Vonn said she plans to compete in the 2014 Sochi Olympics, which start a year from this week. She was released from the hospital late Tuesday and returned to the team hotel. "I am grateful to my fans for the outpouring of support, which has really helped me stay positive," Vonn said in a statement Wednesday. "I can assure you that I will work as hard as humanly possible to be ready to represent my country next year in Sochi." While Julia Mancuso won the bronze medal in the race in which Vonn crashed, the atmosphere at the team hotel was solemn Tuesday night. That didn't affect Ligety. "Ski racing is a sport where you have so many teammates getting injured and it's such a huge part of the sport that if an athlete ever let that get to them they would never do good ever," Ligety said. "Because it's such a dangerous sport, it's such a

norm having teammates get injured that you can't worry about it because you need to worry about yourself and try to hammer hard and be safe yourself." Hammer he did, as Ligety took advantage of an early start number to lay down a super-clean run on a highly technical course that in many sections resembled a giant slalom more than a super-G. Giant slalom, of course, is the discipline in which Ligety has won four of five races this season. "I thought I had a good chance in the days leading up just because of how this hill is and how I've done so far in super-G," said Ligety, who had two fourth-place finishes in super-G recently.

"I've been close to getting a couple podiums this year and getting other good results on hills that don't necessarily suit me, and this is a hill that does suit me so I knew I had a pretty good chance if I was able to put together a clean run top to bottom." Ligety took a series of risks on the steep and twisty final section and mastered the Planai course in 1 minute, 23.96 seconds. Gauthier De Tessieres of France finished 0.20 back for the silver medal, and Olympic champion Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway, who won three of the four World Cup super-Gs this season, was another 0.02 back in third. Ligety had reached a super-G podium only once before, finishing second in a World Cup race in Val d'Isere, France, in 2009. Ligety trailed then-leader De Tessieres by 0.41 at the first intermediate checkpoint, then reduced the deficit to 0.06 by the next interval and beat the Frenchman in the bottom section — the course's most technical area. "He was able to hang tight with the best gliders on the top and took some time on them on the bottom," U.S. men's coach Sasha Rearick said. "Ted's been skiing great all season... □

NBA Capsules

Short-handed Lakers beat Brooklyn 92-83

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — NEW YORK (AP)

Kobe Bryant had 21 points and eight rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame the absences of Dwight Howard and Metta World Peace, and the loss of Pau Gasol to beat the Brooklyn Nets 92-83 on Tuesday night. Antawn Jamison, starting for the suspended World Peace, made the go-ahead basket during a closing 14-3 run for the Lakers, who have won three straight and six of their last seven games.

Howard missed his third consecutive game with a torn labrum in his right shoulder and Gasol, his replacement, appeared to injure his right foot with a little more than 4 minutes remaining. Brook Lopez capitalized on the Lakers' center woes to finish with 30 points and 11 rebounds, but he was the Nets' only offense down the stretch in their fourth loss in six games.

PACERS 114, HAWKS 103

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Paul George scored 29 points to lead Indiana to its 15th straight home win.

David West had 15 points and seven rebounds and George Hill added 15 points and eight assists to help the Pacers to their fourth straight victory overall and their longest home win streak in 13 years.

Jeff Teague had 24 points and eight assists and Al Horford had 15 points and eight rebounds to lead the Hawks, who have lost three of their last four.

The Pacers went on a 7-2 run midway through the fourth quarter. Lance Stephenson scored on a layup before Hill hit a 3-pointer with 6:28 left to play to give the Pacers a 100-84 lead, their largest advantage of the game.

ROCKETS 140, GOLDEN

STATE 109

HOUSTON (AP) — The Rockets tied an NBA record and set a franchise mark with 23 3-pointers in win over Golden State.

Jeremy Lin scored 28 points, including a career-high five 3-pointers, and Chandler Parsons and James Harden hit four 3s apiece as the Rockets reached a season-high point total. They also tied an NBA record with 14 3-pointers in the first half and had a season-high 35 assists on 46 field goals overall.

Harden added 18 and Parsons scored 16 for Houston. The Rockets put on the shooting display without their best 3-point shooter — Carlos Delfino sat out with a right elbow injury.

Jarrett Jack scored 20 points and David Lee had 18 for the Warriors.

SUNS 96, GRIZZLIES 90

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Goran Dragic scored 15 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter to lead Phoenix past Memphis.

Dragic, who had just two points on 1-for-6 shooting through three quarters, was 5 for 6 in the fourth, including converting three three-point plays to help the Suns snap a two-game losing streak.

After the score was tied at 88, Dragic scored six straight points to put the game away.

Marcin Gortat led the Suns with 20 points on 8-for-10 shooting from the field, while Jermaine O'Neal had 14 points. Kendall Marshall added 11 points and Luis Scola finished with 10. Jerryd Bayless scored a season-high 29 points on 11-for-15 shooting, including 3 of 4 on 3-pointers, to lead the Grizzlies. Zach Randolph had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Tayshaun Prince scored 11 points.

NUGGETS 112, BUCKS 104

DENVER (AP) — Danilo Gallinari and Ty Lawson each scored 22 points to help rally Denver for its seventh straight victory.

The Nuggets withstood Samuel Dalembert's career-high 35 points and trailed by 17 points in the first half before coming back to beat the Bucks for

the fifth time in a row and get their longest winning streak overall in more than two years. Corey Brewer added 20 points and Kenneth Faried 13 points and rebounds for the Nuggets, who didn't lead in the game until late in the fourth quarter. Dalembert finished 17 for 21 from the floor in surpassing his previous career high of 27 points on March 14, 2011, against Golden State while with Sacramento. In other NBA games it was Indiana 114, Atlanta 103; L.A. Lakers 92, Brooklyn 83; Houston 140, Golden State 109; Phoenix 96, Memphis 90; and Denver 112, Milwaukee 104. □



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, center, slams the ball between Brooklyn Nets' Kris Humphries, left, and Gerald Wallace during the second half of the NBA basketball game at the Barclays Center Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013 in New York. The Lakers beat the Nets 92-83. Associated Press

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NHL Capsules

Blackhawks beat Sharks 5-3

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Patrick Kane scored twice, including the tiebreaking goal after a fight midway through the second period, and the Chicago Blackhawks beat the San Jose Sharks 5-3 on Tuesday night in a matchup of the NHL's top two teams.

Brandon Saad, Andrew Shaw and Marcus Kruger also scored for the Blackhawks, who overcame a 2-0 deficit to remain the only team yet to lose in regulation this season. Corey Crawford made 30 saves.

Joe Pavelski, Tommy Wingels and Michal Handzus scored for the Sharks, who have lost three straight following a franchise-record seven-game winning streak to open the season. Antti Niemi made 26 saves.

DEVILS 3, RANGERS 1

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— David Clarkson scored twice and set up New Jersey's other goal, and Patrik Elias matched his career best with three assists to lead the Devils over New York in their first meeting since last spring's Eastern Conference finals.

The Devils won that series in six games, and they still had the Rangers' number in getting 24 saves from Martin Brodeur.

Rangers nemesis Adam Henrique ended that series with an overtime goal in Game 6, and he picked up right where he left off, scoring in close five minutes after the opening faceoff to give the Devils a lead they would never lose.

Chris Kreider scored for the Rangers, who have yet to jell this season despite adding scoring star Rick Nash. Henrik Lundqvist had 19 saves.

PENGUINS 4, ISLANDERS 2

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — James Neal staked Pittsburgh to an early lead, and Marc-Andre Fleury and the rest of the Penguins then held on to beat the Islanders.

Pittsburgh looked plenty comfortable when it took a



Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby (87) lies on the ice after he was hit in the face in the second period of their NHL hockey game against the New York Islanders at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y., Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013.

Associated Press

3-0 lead 1:44 into the third period on Brandon Sutter's goal, but the Islanders suddenly stormed back just as it seemed they would be shut out at home for the second straight game.

Michael Grabner began the comeback at 3:14, and Brad Boyes — moved up to the top line for this game — made it 3-2 just 35 seconds later when he flung a shot past Fleury, who was sprawled on the ice.

Defenseman Simon Despres added a second-period goal for Pittsburgh.

Pascal Dupuis finally put away the Islanders with an empty-net goal with 39 seconds left. Evgeni Nabokov stopped 22 shots. Fleury finished with 32 saves.

KINGS 4, BLUE JACKETS 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Mike Richards provided late insurance with his first goal of the season and Jonathan Quick stopped 18 shots to lead Los Angeles over the Blue Jackets.

Anze Kopitar, Jeff Carter and Slava Voynov also scored while Justin Williams had three assists for the reigning Stanley Cup champions, who began the night 14th in the West-

ern Conference with six points — two more than last-place Calgary and one fewer than Columbus. Richards also had an assist and Quick made several big stops in the first and third periods. Columbus managed just two shots on goal in the middle period. Derick Brassard and Dereck MacKenzie had the Blue Jackets' goals.

FLAMES 4, RED WINGS 1
DETROIT (AP) — Jarome Iginla scored his first goal of the season and Dennis Wideman had a goal and an assist to lead Calgary past the Red Wings.

Curtis Glencross and Mark Giordano also scored for Calgary. Mike Cammalleri had two assists and Miikka Kiprusoff made 19 saves before being replaced by Leland Irving to start the third period because of a lower-body injury. Irving stopped six shots.

Johan Franzen scored for Detroit and Jimmy Howard made 19 saves. Howard also stopped Iginla on a penalty shot.

FLYERS 2, LIGHTNING 1
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tom Sestito scored his first two goals in three years to lead

the Flyers over the Lightning.

Ilya Bryzgalov made 21 saves, shutting down the NHL's highest-scoring team to help the Flyers win their second straight game and improve to 4-6.

The Lightning, who entered averaging 4.9 goals per game, had dominated the series, winning seven of the previous nine meetings.

Benoit Pouliot scored for Tampa Bay. Steven Stamkos was held without a point for the first time this season as the Lightning (6-3) lost their second consecutive game.

SENATORS 4, SABRES 3
OTTAWA (AP) — Chris Neil scored in the second period and Craig Anderson made 20 saves as the Senators hung on for a victory against the Sabres.

Erik Karlsson, Chris Phillips and Daniel Alfredsson scored for Ottawa, and Peter Regin picked up his first points of the season with two assists.

The win snapped a two-game Senators' losing streak as Anderson allowed more than two goals for the first time in nine games this season. □

2 Puerto Ricans cleared in Macho Camacho's death

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico police

say forensic evidence has cleared two men suspected in the killing of popular boxer Hector "Macho" Camacho.

Police spokesman Alex Diaz told The Associated Press on Wednesday that evidence also showed the suspects' impounded car was not used in the crime. No one has been charged in the Nov. 20 shooting of 50-year-old Camacho and his friend, 49-year-old Adrián Mojica Moreno. They were attacked while sitting in a car in the northern city of Bayamon. Officers found nine small bags of cocaine in Mojica's pocket, and a 10th bag open inside the car.

Mojica died at the scene, while the boxer died three days later after being removed from life support.

Camacho won super lightweight, lightweight and junior welterweight world titles and had a career record of 79-6-3. □

Lauren Jackson to miss 2013 WNBA season

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Storm will be without three-time league MVP Lauren Jackson for the 2013 season while she stays in Australia to recover from recent hamstring surgery.

Seattle made the announcement Wednesday, saying Jackson's contract has been suspended and she is expected to play in the 2014 season.

Jackson underwent surgery last month in Melbourne. She is expected to make a full recovery, but in a statement from the Storm, Jackson said she was not going to be "fit, ready or confident" for the WNBA season.

Seattle coach Brian Agler said he supports Jackson's decision to take the time to let her body heal.

Jackson has not played a full season since 2010, when Seattle won its second league title. □



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Braun says he used clinic owner as consultant

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Milwaukee Brewers slugger Ryan Braun said the person who ran the Florida clinic under investigation by Major League Baseball only was used as a consultant on his drug suspension appeal last year.

"I have nothing to hide," Braun said in a statement released by his representatives on Tuesday night. Earlier in the day, Yahoo Sports reported the 2011 National League Most Valuable Player's name showed up three times in records of the Biogenesis of America LLC clinic. Yahoo said no specific performance-enhancing drugs were listed next to his name. The Miami New Times recently released clinic documents that purportedly linked Alex Rodriguez, Gio Gonzalez, Melky Cabrera and other players to purchases of banned drugs from the now-closed anti-aging center.

Rodriguez and Cabrera were on the list with Braun that also included New York Yankees catcher Francisco Cervelli and Baltimore Orioles infielder Danny Valencia.

Braun said his name was in the Biogenesis records because of an issue over payment to Anthony Bosch, who ran the clinic near Miami. "There was a dispute over compensation for Bosch's work, which is why my lawyer and I are listed under 'moneys owed' and not on any other list," Braun said.

"I have nothing to hide and have never had any other relationship with Bosch," he said. "I will fully cooperate with any inquiry into this matter."

On Tuesday, MLB officials asked the Miami New Times

for the records the alternative newspaper obtained for its story. Asked specifically about Braun's name in the documents before the five-time All-Star released his statement, MLB spokesman Pat Courtney said: "Aware of report and are in the midst of an active investigation in South Florida."



In this Sept. 21, 2012, file photo, Milwaukee Brewers Ryan Braun reacts while holding his elbow after missing his swing during a baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park in Washington.

Associated Press

Braun tested positive during the 2011 postseason for elevated testosterone levels. He maintained his innocence and his 50-game suspension was overturned during spring training last year when arbitrator Shyam Das ruled in favor of Braun due to chain of custody issues involving the sample. With that, Braun became the first major leaguer to have a drug suspension overturned. "During the course of preparing for my successful appeal last year,

(41), runs (108) and slugging percentage (.595) last season while batting .319 with 112 RBIs and 30 stolen bases. He finished second to San Francisco catcher Buster Posey in MVP balloting." Cervelli, who spent nearly all of last season in Triple-A, posted a statement on Twitter later Tuesday night. "Following my foot injury in March 2011, I consulted with a number of experts, including Biogenesis Clinic, for (cont)," Cervelli posted, "(cont)legal ways to aid my rehab

and recovery. I purchased supplements that I am certain were not prohibited by

Major League Baseball." An email sent to Valencia's agent was not returned. □

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Mentally ill people smoke more, data show

PAM BELLUCK

© 2013 New York Times

People with mental illness are 70 percent more likely to smoke cigarettes than people without mental illness, two federal health agencies reported Tuesday.

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration show that 1 of every 3 adults with mental illness smokes, compared with 1 in 5 adults without mental illness.

Adults with mental illness smoke about a third of all the cigarettes in the United States, and they smoke more cigarettes per month and are significantly less

likely to quit than people without mental illness, the report said. There are nearly 46 million adults with mental illness in the United States, about a fifth of the population.

"Many people with mental illness are at greater risk of dying early from smoking than of dying from their mental health conditions," said Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, director of the CDC, during a press briefing.

The report is based on information from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which interviewed 138,000 adults in their homes from 2009 to 2011. People were asked 14 questions to assess psychological distress and disability, and were deemed to



New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration show that 1 of every 3 adults with mental illness smokes.

(Handout Photo)

have mental illness if their responses indicated they had a mental, behavior or emotional disorder in the past 12 months. Those with substance abuse or developmental disorders were not considered people with mental illness.

The report did not include patients in psychiatric hospitals or individuals serving in the military.

People who reported smoking all or part of a cigarette in the previous 30 days were counted as smokers.

The study found that smoking rates for people with mental illness were generally higher in states where overall smoking rates were high.

Utah had the lowest rate of smoking among people with mental illness – 18.1 percent – while West Vir-

ginia had the highest rate, at 48.7 percent. Smoking among people with mental illness was higher among the poor and less educated, and among American Indians and Alaska Natives, although every ethnic group had significant percentages of smokers.

The study noted several possible reasons that smoking among the mentally ill has been and remains high, including marketing by the tobacco industry and the historical use of cigarettes as an incentive to improve behavior in psychiatric hospitals.

"There are some effects of nicotine which can mask some of the negative effects of mental illness," Frieden said.

The study said that smoking can also make some medications less effective, which may then lead the person with mental illness to smoke more to quell symptoms.

And it said that people with mental illness, many of whom struggle to live a financially and socially stable life, may be less able to cope with withdrawal symptoms from quitting cigarettes. □



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A record 3 million stream Super Bowl online



The Superdome, where the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game between the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens will be played, is seen at sunset Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Super Bowl was streamed online by 3 million people, an increase from the 2.1 million who watched the big game online last year, according to U.S. network CBS. Sunday's game was streamed for free by both CBSSports.com and NFL.com, as well as via Verizon on mobile. The 3 million unique viewers showed that while the televised broadcast is emphatically more desirable to viewers, increasing numbers are following the Super Bowl online.

The game between the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers was seen on TV by an average of 108.7 million people, down from the last two years but still ranking as the third most-watched show in U.S. TV history after the last two Super Bowls.

Networks have not sought to make online viewing as appealing as telecasts, but have presented streams with a few alternatives, like social media integration, camera-view options and on-demand commercials.

This year's webcast was the first to also include the halftime show live to U.S. viewers.

NBCSports.com last year streamed the Super Bowl for the first time ever.

There were a total of 10 mil-

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lion live streams Sunday for CBS, with an average engagement of 38 minutes. The figures include NFL.com viewers, who were fed CBSSports.com's video player.

The game was perhaps more record-breaking in its second-screen usage. The

social media research firm Bluefin Labs found that 30.6 million comments about the game were made on social media during the broadcast. The previous record, according to Bluefin Labs, was 28.3 million for the 2012 presidential election. □

25 billion served up: iTunes reaches milestone

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The answer to the trivia question will be "Monkey Drums (Goskel Vancin Remix) by Chase Buch." That's the 25 billionth song purchased on iTunes.

Apple announced the sales milestone in a news release Wednesday. The

company says Phillip Lupke of Germany purchased and downloaded Buch's song and will receive an iTunes gift card worth 10,000 euros, or about \$13,500.

It took the U.S. company almost 10 years to reach the milestone. □

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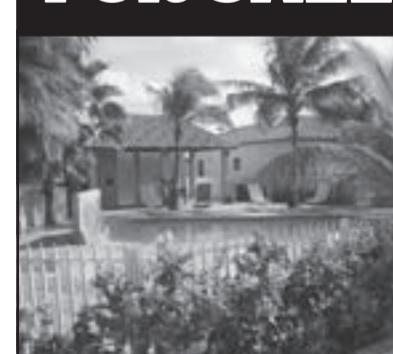
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News Corp. posts higher 2Q earnings, revenue up

NEW YORK (AP) — Media conglomerate News Corp. says earnings for the last three months of 2012 grew, helped by higher revenue at its pay TV networks and gains from larger stakes in businesses abroad.

The company, which is controlled by CEO Rupert Murdoch, said Wednesday that it earned \$2.38 billion, or \$1.01 per share, in the fiscal second quarter. That's up from \$1.06 billion, or 42 cents per share, a year earlier.

Earnings got a one-time, \$1.4 billion boost due to the company taking a bigger stake in Fox Sports Australia and Fox Star Sports Asia. It also posted a \$131 million gain from participating in a stock buyback program at British Sky Broadcasting, which News Corp. has a 39 percent stake in. The one-time gains were offset by restructuring charges of \$65 million related to newspapers abroad.

Excluding one-time items, adjusted earnings came to 44 cents per share, beating the 43 cents per share expected by analysts polled by FactSet.

Revenue was \$9.43 billion, up 5 percent from \$8.98 billion. The company says its cable network business helped grow revenue.

Analysts were looking for revenue of \$9.26 billion.

News Corp. is planning to split into two companies this year — one for publishing and the other for the TV and movie businesses.

Shares of the highly traded Class A shares rose 38 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$28.60 in after-hours trading, a new 52-week high. □

Liberty Global to buy Virgin Media for \$16B

BREE FOWLER
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Liberty Global Inc., the cable TV operator controlled by media mogul John Malone, is buying U.K.-based Virgin Media Inc. in a \$16 billion deal that steps up the rivalry between Malone and fellow billionaire Rupert Murdoch.

Liberty Global is paying \$5.9 billion in cash and the rest in stock for Virgin Media. The combination, announced late Tuesday, will provide stiffer competition in the U.K. to satellite TV provider BSkyB, in which Murdoch's News Corp. owns a 40 percent stake. The combined company will become one of the world's largest providers of cable TV, Internet and phone services, with 25 million customers in 14 countries.

"Liberty Global together with Virgin Media is a powerful combination," Liberty Global President and CEO Michael Fries said Wednesday on a conference call with investors. "In fact, it hits the mark on just about

every strategic and operating criteria we have established for our company and provides significant

deal, about 80 percent of the company's revenue will come from five countries: the U.K., Germany,



John Malone, chairman of Liberty Media and CEO of Discovery Holding Company, at the Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

benefits to Virgin Media subscribers and investors." Liberty Global is the largest cable operator in most of its 11 European markets. Virgin Media is the second-biggest pay TV company in the U.K. after BSkyB, or British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC.

Fries said that after the

Belgium, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The two companies said they had combined revenue of \$16.8 billion last year.

Besides the cable TV, Internet and landline phone operations, Virgin Media runs a mobile phone business. That's a business Liberty Global doesn't cur-

rently have. Virgin Group boss Richard Branson — a multibillionaire, like Malone and Murdoch — has a minority stake in Virgin Media. The companies said the transaction is equal to \$47.87 per Virgin Media share.

That's about a 24 percent premium on the closing price of Virgin Media's U.S.-traded stock on Monday. Each Virgin Media shareholder will get \$17.50 in cash and get the rest of the value in Liberty Global stock.

"This deal delivers attractive value now and exposure to a very compelling growth equity story," Virgin Media CEO Neil Berkett said on the conference call, pointing to the stock premium.

Virgin Media's U.S. shares fell 72 cents, or 1.6 percent, to close at \$44.89 on Wednesday, a day after surging almost 18 percent to close at \$45.61 after the company acknowledged it was in acquisition talks with Liberty Global. Liberty Global's stock fell \$1.82, or 2.7 percent, to \$66.06. □

Plywood maker Boise Cascade soars on IPO

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Riding a U.S. housing recovery and a booming stock market, Boise Cascade, a maker of plywood and other building materials, jumped 25 percent in its market debut Wednesday. It's the latest solid first-day gain for an IPO, boding well for other companies that want to raise money by going public. Cruise company Norwegian Cruise Line rose 30 percent in its Jan. 18 debut, and has kept rising. Child care provider Bright Horizons gained 27 percent on Jan. 25. Homebuilder Tri Pointe added 12 percent on Jan. 31.

"It's a very healthy IPO market," said Francis Gascons, president of researcher IPODesktop. "The lake is rising in terms of the stock market and that brings in IPOs, and in that context,

IPOs generally do quite well."

The Dow Jones industrial average, a stock market bellwether, had closed

it can have a ripple effect across the economy. Selling shares gives companies funds that they can use to grow their business



Boise Cascade Chief Executive Officer Thomas Carlile rings the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange, to celebrate their IPO, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

above 14,000 on Friday for the first time since the financial crisis.

When Wall Street rolls out the red carpet for companies like Boise Cascade Co. and others looking to tap the markets for money,

and add more employees. That path has been a difficult one since the financial crisis broke in 2007, however. Wild swings in stock market prices made investors and companies more nervous about going pub-

lic, weighing on deal volume. Still, a handful of big debuts, such as the Facebook Inc. IPO last May and General Motors Co.'s return to the public markets in 2010, helped put a gloss on the market and raised the total dollar value of IPOs.

So far this year, 13 companies have raised \$5.5 billion in U.S. initial public offerings of stock, according to data provider Dealogic. That's up sixfold from \$909 raised by eight companies in the same stretch last year. In all of 2012, 145 IPOs raised \$47.2 billion, though IPOs all but dried up late in the year as concern over the "fiscal cliff" mounted. Lawmakers' deal over taxes at the beginning of January averted the steep tax increases and spending cuts that would have kicked in, helping rally the stock market and unthaw the IPO market. □



Stocks move sideways as earnings fail to inspire

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks were flat on Wall Street as the latest round of earnings reports failed to give investors an impetus to push the market's recent rally forward.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 7.22 points to 13,986.52 on Wednesday, after trading slightly lower for most of the day. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 0.83 point to 1,512.12. The Nasdaq composite was three points lower at 3,168.48.

Time Warner rose \$2.05, or 4.1 percent, to \$52.01 after the company said its net income grew 51 percent in the last three months of 2012 even as revenue was largely unchanged. Marathon Oil Corp. fell 32 cents, or 0.9 percent, to \$34.40 after its fourth-quarter net income fell 41 percent on higher exploration costs and taxes.

Stocks are consolidating their gains after surging since the start of the year. The Dow closed above 14,000 for the first time since December 2007 Friday and had its best January in almost two decades. The index is up 6.7 percent this year; the broader S&P 500 is 6 percent higher.

"There's no question that we need to take a pause and let reality catch up," said Jim Russell, an investment director at U.S. Bank. The rally started when law-



Trader David O'Day works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013. Strong earnings reports from media giants Disney and Time Warner aren't impressing investors in early trading, and major U.S. market indexes are opening lower.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

makers reached a last-minute deal at New Year's to avoid the "fiscal cliff," a series of steep tax increases and spending cuts that

would have kicked in at the beginning of the year. The gains continued on optimism that the housing market recovery is gaining

momentum and that the job market is healing.

While the budget deal reached in January dealt with tax increases, it didn't tackle spending cuts. Automatic spending cuts, which would hit everything from defense spending to popular benefit programs, were scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, but were postponed till March 1. Russell says stocks will be unlikely to rise strongly while talks heat up in Washington over the spending cuts, which are also referred to as sequestration.

The rally has pushed stocks close to record levels. The Dow is 178 points off its record close, reached in October 2007, and the S&P is 53 points below its all-time high, achieved in the same month.

"We've had a really nice

move up here, whether we graduate to the next level, I think is questionable," said Ben Schwarz, Chief Market Strategist at Light Speed Financial. "We're looking for something to spark it."

More than half of the companies in the S&P 500 have now reported earnings for the fourth quarter and analysts are expecting earnings for the period to rise by 6 percent, according to data from S&P Capital IQ. That puts earnings growth on track to increase for the third straight quarter after slowing to 0.81 percent in the second quarter of 2012. As investors have become more comfortable holding riskier assets like stocks, they have cut their holdings in defensive investments like U.S. government bonds, sending yields on those bonds higher. □

Visa's fiscal 1Q net income jumps 25%

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Visa says its profit jumped 25 percent in the last three months of 2012 as consumers racked up more credit card debt and used their debit cards more often. The payments processing company also expanded a program to buy back its stock. Visa says that its fiscal first-quarter net income totaled \$1.3 billion, or \$1.93 per share, in the



three months ended Dec. 31. That compares with net income of \$1.03 billion, or \$1.49 per share, a year earlier. Revenue rose nearly 12 percent to \$2.85 billion.

Analysts polled by FactSet had forecast earnings of \$1.79 per share on revenue of \$2.82 billion. □

Visa says its profit jumped 25 percent in the last three months of 2012 as consumers racked up more credit card debt and used their debit cards more often.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

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VISIT US & COMPARE FOR YOURSELF!



JUWELENHUISJE

OPEN 10AM - 6PM MONDAY - FRIDAY



Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



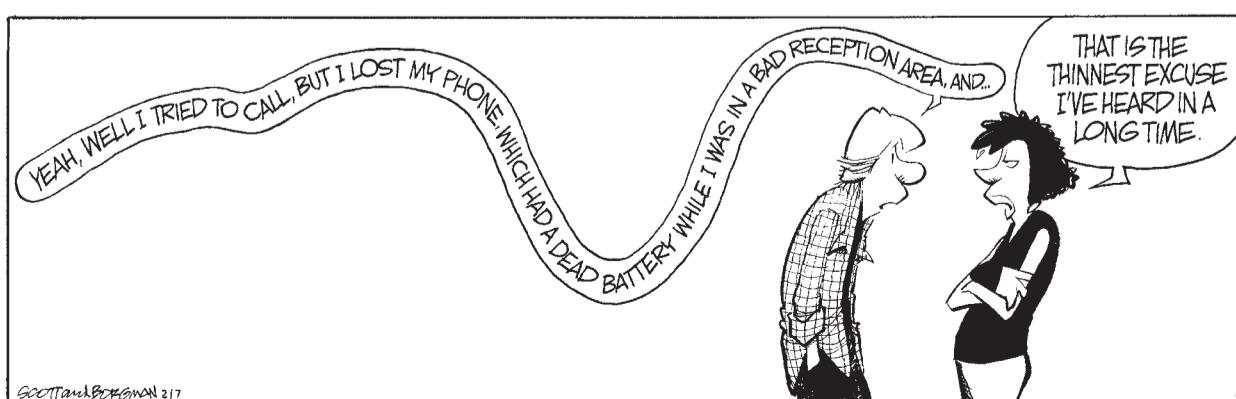
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2										
4										5		
8	2		1	9	4					7		
4											1	
9										2		
6										9		
3	1	6	8				5			9		
	2									8		
									3			

Difficulty Level ★★★

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2/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	1	6	5	3	8	7	2	4				
7	2	5	9	4	1	8	6	3				
4	3	8	6	7	2	9	5	1				
3	9	2	8	5	7	1	4	6				
5	8	4	1	2	6	3	9	7				
1	6	7	3	9	4	2	8	5				
8	4	9	7	1	5	6	3	2				
6	5	1	2	8	3	4	7	9				
2	7	3	4	6	9	5	1	8				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2/07

ACROSS

1 Observed
5 Baby horses
10 Not harsh
14 Bird of peace
15 Shining
16 Freeloader; leech
17 Eras
18 Member of the wedding party
19 Biting insect
20 Launched weapon
22 Kaffeeklatsch
24 ___ out a living; get by
25 Flower part
26 Agassi of tennis
29 Affirmative
30 Kline or Bacon
34 Outscore
35 That woman
36 Next to
37 Writer Fleming
38 Grew older
40 Last calendar page; abbr.
41 Plays
43 Caribbean or Adriatic
44 Mountaintop
45 Composition
46 Marry
47 Swimming spots
48 Not hollow
50 Brewed drink
51 Used crayons
54 Late humorous author Peg ___
58 Come ___; find
59 Eagle's nest
61 Bee colony
62 Grizzly, for one
63 Blackboard
64 Mothers of lambs
65 Opie's pa
66 Sorts; varieties
67 Soil

DOWN
1 Dutch cheese
2 Cartoon bear
3 Arden & Plumb
4 Pie or mousse

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
20				21		22		23					
					24		25						
26	27	28			29			30		31	32	33	
34					35			36					
37					38			39			40		
41		42				43			44				
45						46			47				
51	52	53				48	49		50				
58						59	60		61				
62						63			64				
65						66			67				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/7/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

L	I	F	E	R	M	A	C	E	M	A	L	E
A	R	O	S	E	B	B	S	A	L	A	N	
T	O	A	S	T	E	S	T	R	I	N	D	
E	N	L	A	R	G	E	D	A	P	E	C	
Y	E	A	R	E	S	T	U	N	N	D		
B	A	L	S	A	M	S	C	N	E			
A	G	E	T	U	D	O	R	K	R	N	A	
B	O	A	R	T	O	D	Y	S	N	W		
A	G	N	E	W	C	A	M	E	T	O		
L	A	R	K	S	M	A	S	O	N			
R	E	C	E	D	E	S	M	E	U			
I	R	O	N	I	C	H	A	N	D			
D	O	N	T	E	P	I	C	E	D			
E	D	G	E	S	A	R	R	U	L			
R	E	A	D	S	L	E	W	S	E			

2/7/13

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5 Fairy tale
6 Meanie
7 Ring king, once
8 BPOE meeting halls
9 Perspire
10 Deadens the sound of
11 ___ of Wight
12 Pinky & Bruce
13 "Phooey!"
21 Mamie's man
23 Boston ___ beans
25 Browsed in a bookstore
26 Put up with
27 Gets closer to
28 Plato & Delany
29 However
31 Digital ___ disc; DVD
32 Perfect
33 Carotid artery locations
35 ___ on; wears
36 Actress Arthur
38 City leader
42 Bricklaying
44 Hunted illegally
46 Extensively
47 Pod vegetable
49 Minimum
50 Oaks & birches
51 Havana's nation
53 Burden
54 ___ off more than one can chew
55 New Zealand bird
56 At any time
57 Robin's home
60 Eminem's style

Classifieds

My Genie Real Estate Aruba

Timeshare and Condo's Resales
from owners
Marriott Surf Club and Ocean Club
1,2 and 3 bedroom any season, any
location, AT Tremendous prices

Occidental Grand
optional all inclusive and mandatory
all inclusive
Jr Suites., 1 br, 2 br and 3 br any
season, any location, at tremendous
price !

**La Cabana Beach and Raquet
Club**
1 bdr wk 4 Room #242C (sat) pool
ocean view \$9.500
Studio wk 7 Room #431B (thu) ocean
view \$8500
Studio wk 8 Room #107B (fri) grand
floor \$7500

Amsterdam Manor
2 bdr wk 1 true 52 (all 52 weeks) Room
#213 ocean view on Eagle Beach
\$350.000

Oceania Condos
3 bdr, 2 1/2 bath 4th floor view or both
sides of the Island view price:
\$750.000

Palma Real
3 bdr, 3 bath full airco, and furnished
security gate with a car 2 pools
price: \$270.000

Divi Links (Golf)
1 bdr, wk 4 Room #2360 35 weeks
remain nice view \$8000
Studio wk 4 Room #2359 35 weeks
remain nice view \$7000
1 br wk 7+8 room #4226 33 weeks
remain \$8500 each
Studio wk 6,7,8 room #4225 33 weeks
remain \$7500 each

Renaissance Suites
1 bdr, wk 5 Room #2315 pool/ ocean
view \$10.000
1 br wk 8 Room # 2303 pool/ ocean
view \$10.000

Paradise Beach Villas
2 bdr, wk 8 Room #128 ocean front
Eagle Beach view \$20.000

Casa del Mar
2 bdr, wk 5 Room #2501 pool/ ocean
view \$25.000

26 years of experience
FREE LISTINGS!
for more info: 562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

114837



FOR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas
2 Bedroom- ocean pool view
week 2&3 \$8500 per week
week 2 one bedroom ocean and
pool view \$5000
call room 207 jan. 12-19
e-mail: jpenn34769@aol.com
after jan. 19 call. 920-7882750

198395A

FOR SALE

**Beach Villas
at the Divi Phoenix**

wk 7 unit # 640 & 641
2 bedr 3 bath 35 years left
\$36,000.00
Call Mary at 565-8713 or
e-mail: macalh@aol.com

198536

FOR SALE

Casa del Mar

Room 1216 - 2 bedroom
presidential week 4+5
Contact at Casa del Mar 582-7000
ask for Martin or Marsha
Room 1119 from Jan 30 th to Feb. 2th
Room 1407 from Feb. 2th to Feb. 23th
E-mail: mjb123@earthlink.net

198543

FOR SALE

Time Share by owner
La Cabana, weeks 5,6 and 7

1 br 418 C
Sunday check in stunning
ocean and pool view
seaandbee@comcast.net
or call Charlie at La Cabana
Room 418C
\$10.000 per week

198707

Timeshare Rentals

want to rent your
Timeshare? or looking for a
Timeshare to rent?
go to
www.rentarubatimeshares.com

It's 100% FREE
No Listing Fee-No Commission

198721

FOR SALE

On behalf of Owner
Marriott Surf Club
Platinum week (2 wks)
2 bdr / 2 bath Ocean view
US\$22,500.00 (@wk)
Call 737-3000
ITR Realty Inc
itraruba@gmail.com

198731

FOR SALE

Paradise Villas wk 2 studio \$2600
and wk 6 studio at Mill Resort
\$2750
508-651-0016
E-mail: rmwjmw@aol.com
local until 1/21 565-9394

198391

FOR SALE

Occasion, 2 weeks for sale
prime location in Paradise Beach
Villas, 3 floor, ocean pool view, 1
bd spacious rooms sleeps 4,
sun -sun week 2 room 322 week 3
room 324 will sell \$18.200.00
e-mail: harpistsylvia@gmail.com
Ph. in USA 718-5441356

198522

FOR RENT

Paradise Beach Villas 2014

2 Bedroom- ocean pool view
week 2&3 \$1200 per week
week 2 one bedroom pool ocean
view \$1000 per week
call room 207 jan. 12-19
e-mail: jpenn34769@aol.com
after jan. 19 call. 920-7882750

198395

FOR SALE

Casa del Mar

ocean side 2 week 2014 sleep 4
or 1 week sleep 8 in February or
March \$21.500
Call USA 001-781-233-8348

198733

FOR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas

\$4200 per wk
1 bdr wk 3+4
call Richard Dooley
dickdooley@hotmail.com
US 267-240-5116 after 2-1

198535

Salon / Special

Massage (50 min) \$45
Manic & Pedicure \$35
Relax massage (50 min) \$45
Facial \$45
and much more... possibility to pick
up!!
Call now 583-7338 / 737-1408

198720

Time Share for sale

Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach
Resort. Week 1 and 2 high season.
Beautiful 1 bdrm. 2 full bath. Full ocean
view. Unit #633. Only 3 years old. Price-
\$40000.00 for 2 weeks. You can
accelerate 40 years. No broker fee, feel
free to email any questions.
Email: www.kazalos@aol.com

198708

FOR SALE

On behalf of Owner
Divi Links Week 6

Large Studio unit #2256 2nd floor:
Birdie x bldg ocean view & 9th hole
of Golf Course.
Next to Infinity Pool.
The unit has a washer, dryer,
dishwasher & whirlpool tub.
35 years left on contract 10
accelerated weeks
Price \$10,000.00
Call 737-3000
ITR Realty Inc
itraruba@gmail.com

198735

198735

Christmas & New Year weeks 2013

2 x one bedroom timeshare suite
for rent in Aruba for wk 51 and wk
52 for 2013
contact:
execsun2000@yahoo.com

198169

FOR SALE

Timeshare for sale

2 wks at the Marriott Aruba Surf
Club 2 Br / 2 B lock out unit
Platinum time -ocean view
NDZ1543@verison.net
732-6687448 (US)

197996

FOR SALE

Paradise Beach Villas

weeks 5,6,7,8 & 9
1st floor pool side
8500 per wk
USA Dorothy 623 933 7554
or Barry 360 546 0788

198526

FOR SALE

Condo in Gold Coast

Every thing's included in this 2 br
2 1/2 bath unit check it out now at
www.arubarental.info
or call 562-0735 free pick up

198542

TIMESHARES FOR SALE

La Cabana weeks 4, 5, Stu 341B,
Fri checkin. Ocean/beach view
Call room or
hscolonis@sbcglobal.net.
\$9500 per week

198722

FOR SALE

Renaissance Ocean View

wk 1 -137 \$10.500
wk 16 two weeks to Rent
\$1000 a week
Call 1-781-760-1048 (cell)
1-781-324-8130
Joe or Mary Summers

114364

FOR SALE

Riu Timeshare

weeks 1 & 3 2 bedroom 2 bath,
kitchen balcony ocean front 21
year remaining \$23.000 each
week 30 1 bedr \$4.900
or rent \$1390
Aruba cell. 566-7433
US 336-953-2913

198510

FOR SALE

House For Sale by owner
close to the beach in Alto Vista in
nice Residential area, property
land, smart electricity, hot water,
price reduce \$150.000
for more inf. 594-6639

198732

FOR SALE

Divi Dutch Village Phase 1

2 bedroom week 4 23 weeks left on
contract \$12.500
bohan036@gmail.com
860-543-3526 in US

198712



**DOCTOR
ON DUTY
ORANJESTAD**

7 February

Dr. Wijngaarde



**Pharmacy on duty
ORANJESTAD:**

Botica Sta. Anna Tel: 586-8181

SAN NICOLAAS:

Botica San Lucas Tel: 584-5119



Police

Police 581-1100

Oranjestad 582-4000

Noord 587-0009

Sta. Cruz 585-4710

Savaneta 584-7000

San Nicolas 584-5000



**Emergency
Numbers**



DIEST

Emergency 911

Police 100

Fire Dept. 115

Fire Dept. II 582-1108

Police Tipline 11141

Hospital 527-4000



Oranjestad

Ambulance 582-1234

Police 582-4000



San Nicolas

Ambulance 584-5050

Police Station 584-5000

BGD San Nicolas 584-1606

Valero Security 584-1720



Closest Earth-like planet 'stroll across park'

MARCI DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — Earth-like worlds may be closer and more plentiful than anyone imagined.

Astronomers reported Wednesday that the nearest Earth-like planet may be just 13 light-years away — or some 77 trillion miles (124 trillion kilometers). That planet hasn't been found yet, but should be there based on the team's study of red dwarf stars.

Galactically speaking, that's right next door.

If our Milky Way galaxy were shrunk to the size of the United States, the distance between Earth and its closest Earth-like neighbor would be the span of New York's Central Park, said Harvard University graduate student Courtney Dressing, the study's lead author.

"The nearest Earth-like planet is simply a stroll across the park away," she said at a news conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Small, cool red dwarfs are the most common stars in our galaxy, numbering at least 75 billion.

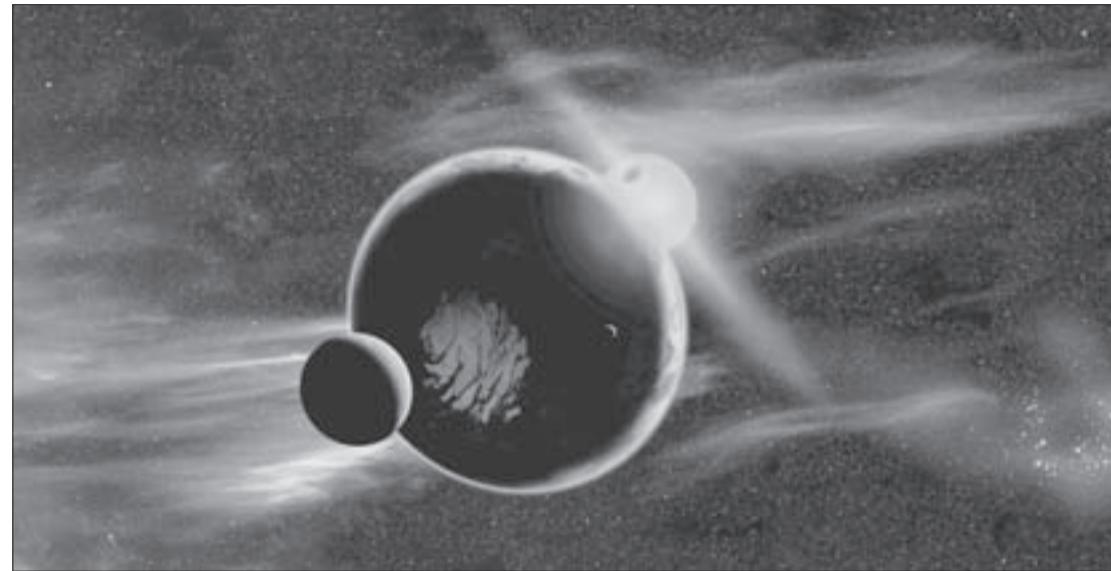
The Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics team estimates 6 percent of red dwarf stars have Earth-like planets. To qualify, the planet must be roughly the size of Earth and get as much light from its star, as Earth does from the sun.

This high rate of occurrence should simplify the search for extraterrestrial life.

As the report's co-author, David Charbonneau, noted, he's an astronomer, but hopes to become a biologist if that search succeeds.

These planetary candidates are quite different than Earth because of the differences between their red dwarf stars and the sun, Charbonneau told reporters.

Because the red dwarfs are so much smaller, potentially habitable planets would need to orbit much



This artist's conception provided by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics shows a hypothetical planet with two moons orbiting in the habitable zone of a red dwarf star. Earth-like worlds may be closer and more plentiful than anyone imagined.

Associated Press

closer than the Earth does to the sun. They likely would be rocky, the astronomers said, but different types of atmospheres could lead to

different types of life. Red dwarf stars also can be old — far older than our sun — which means their planets could be much

older than Earth and their potential life forms much more evolved. Our solar system is 4.5 billion years old, for instance,

while some red dwarf stars are 12 billion years old. One of these target planets could be 12 billion years old as well, the scientists said. Future spacecraft should be able to locate these planets and provide environmental clues.

California Institute of Technology astronomer John Johnson, who was not involved in the study, called the proximity of the nearest Earth-like planet "extraordinarily exciting."

"It's right within reach," Johnson said, and future efforts will put scientists "hot on the trail of finding life elsewhere in the galaxy." These newest findings are based on data from NASA's Kepler space telescope, launched in 2009. They will be published in "The Astrophysical Journal." □

UK's space age Antarctic base can slide across ice

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British researchers have unveiled a futuristic Antarctic research base that can move, sliding across the frozen surface to beat the shifting ice and pounding snow that doomed its predecessors.

The British Antarctic Survey said Wednesday that the Halley VI Research Station is the sixth facility to occupy the site on the Brunt Ice Shelf — a floating sheet of ice about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the edge of the South Atlantic.

Most of the previous stations were crushed under the weight of the polar snow, while Halley V had to be abandoned due to

fears that the station would be lost if the ice sheet split apart, survey spokesman Paul Seagrove said in a telephone interview. He said this fate "illustrates the problem of constructing research stations on moving ice."



This April 2, 2012 photo released on Wednesday Feb. 6, 2013 by the British Antarctic Survey shows the Halley VI Research Station on the edge of the South Atlantic Ocean.

Associated Press

Halley VI, designed by London-based Hugh Broughton Architects, looks like something out of a "Star Wars" movie. The station is composed of a series of four-legged modules

linked by enclosed walkways. Triple-glazed windows help trap heat, a vacuum drainage system keeps water consumption down, and the ski-clad stilts keep the units about 4

meters (13 feet) above the level of the ice. If the station needs to be moved, the modules are disconnected and then towed to a new location, Seagrove said. □



Bob Marley's granddaughter Donisha Prendergast, right, dances to the sound of a Rastafarian drum, during the celebration of Marley's 68th birthday in the yard of his Kingston home, in Jamaica, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

Associated Press

Fervent fans mark Bob Marley's birthday in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Hundreds of tourists have joined Rastafarian priests and reggae musicians at Bob Marley's old house in Jamaica to mark the 68th anniversary of the late reggae icon's birth. Since his death from cancer in 1981, Marley has become more than just Jamaica's most famous musical export.

Marley's message of unity and respect remains a beacon of hope in this Caribbean nation strug-

gling with joblessness and violence. On Wednesday, some of Marley's relatives and old friends danced and chanted to the pounding of drums in the yard of his Kingston home, which is now a museum. Culture Minister Lisa Hanna said his lyrics still call for Jamaicans to create a "more wholesome, caring, peaceful and progressive society." Marley's popularity remains strong across the globe, and his music continues to sell steadily. □

Alicia Keys is NBA All-Star halftime performer



This Jan. 21, 2013 file photo shows Alicia Keys performing during Inaugural Ball in the Washington Convention Center at the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Next stop for Alicia Keys? NBA All-Star weekend.

The superstar, fresh off her national anthem performance at the Super Bowl football championship, is set to be the halftime entertainment at the Feb. 17 game. She's just one of several musicians on tap. Ne-Yo will sing during player introductions, while John Legend will sing the national anthem. Singer

and "Lincoln" actress Gloria Reuben will sing the Canadian anthem. Nick Cannon is set to host festivities the evening before the game, which will include performances by "American Idol" Phillip Phillips, Ellie Goulding and the first live TV performance in three years by a reunited Fall Out Boy. The All-Star game, set to feature superstars like LeBron James and Kobe Bryant, will air live on TNT. □

Lyric videos become strong way to promote music



This Nov. 17, 2011 file photo shows Honoree Justin Timberlake arrives at the 16th annual GQ "Men of the Year" party in Los Angeles, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011. The lyric video — which features words onscreen while a song plays — is not a new phenomenon in music.

Associated Press

JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The lyric music video — which features words onscreen while a song plays — is not a new phenomenon in music. Some consider Bob Dylan the pioneer of the lyric video when he released his 1965 song "Subterranean Homesick Blues," which features the singer holding up large cue cards with the song's lyrics.

But these days, lyric videos are used to promote new songs, giving fans something to hold on to between a song's release and the launch of an official music video. It has become a part of the marketing repertoire for many of music's top acts, including Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Prince, Justin Bieber, Ke\$ha, Maroon 5 and dozens of others. Justin Timberlake, who recently released a lyric video for his new single, "Suit & Tie," took things to new heights when the clip broadcast on TV — MTV to be exact. "As soon as we knew (Timberlake's label) was going to push out a lyric video, we proactively asked them to let us make this an event the biggest way possible,"

said Amy Doyle, MTV's executive vice president of music and talent. Timberlake's lyric video premiered on all of MTV's television networks and website. The official video has yet to be released. When CeeLo Green released the audio version of "(Expletive) You" in 2010, he wanted to maintain the buzz of the song, but didn't have an official video to share at the time. So Green — along with his management team — huddled up and created a colorful, cartoonish video with the song's lyrics appearing onscreen as the song played. The video hit the Web, and Green was hoping he would build more momentum around the groovy song without spending much money.

The video became a viral hit, and the best promotional tool to broadcast Green's new music.

"It was cost-effective," said the singer-rapper-songwriter, who won a Grammy Award for the expletive-laden song, also known as "Forget You." "It was a chance to put out a video and give people a chance to follow the lyrics, helping them understand the song more and gauge their in-

terest," he added about the clip, which has more than 10 million views on YouTube. Doyle said MTV will be open to airing more lyric videos on a "case-by-case" basis. She said some could air on the television network and others online. "We have conversations with artists all the time," she said. "We know how popular they are. They can be down and dirty, or elaborate. There is such a desire to know what the lyrics are to your favorite songs." Record labels aren't the only ones releasing lyric videos — so are fans. On YouTube and other video websites, there is a good chance a song is posted with a simple — or creative — video with lyrics appearing as the track plays. But Timberlake's lyric video for "Suit & Tie" isn't just a screen with words appearing in bold fonts. He appears in it, too, looking dapper in suit and tie, and a black convertible. The pop singer's video has more weight than his peers because of the anticipation surrounding his new album, "The 20/20 Experience," out March 19. So far the clip has about 6 million YouTube views in two weeks. □

Bruce Willis says he's against new gun controls

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bruce Willis says he's against new gun control laws that could infringe on rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution. The "Die Hard" star also dismisses any link between Hollywood shoot-outs and real-life gun violence.

"I think that you can't start to pick apart anything out of the Bill of Rights without thinking that it's all going to become undone," Willis told The Associated Press in a recent interview while promoting his latest film, "A Good Day To Die Hard."

"If you take one out or change one law, then why wouldn't they take all your rights away from you?"

President Barack Obama has proposed sweeping new gun controls after a December school shooting that left 20 young children dead.

Willis' fifth outing as wise-cracking cop John Mc-



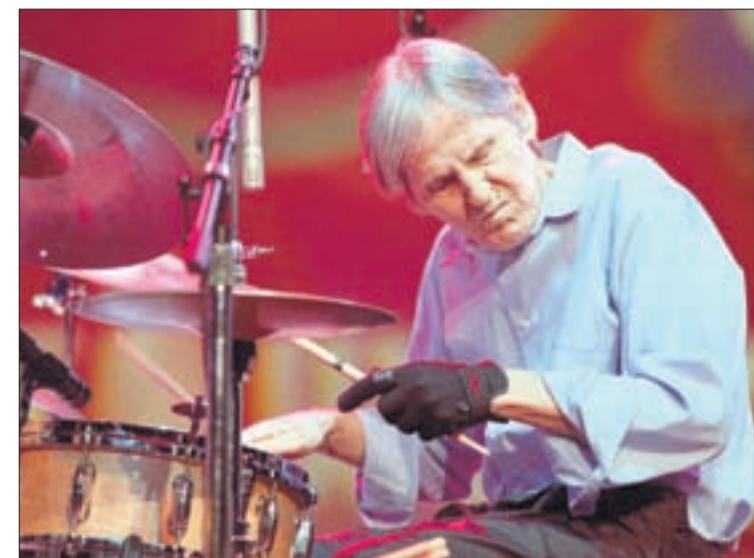
In this picture made available Tuesday Feb. 5, 2013, U.S. actor Bruce Willis, arrives for the premiere of the movie 'A Good Day to Die Hard' in Berlin, Germany, Monday Feb. 4, 2013.

Associated Press

Clane, due in theaters Feb. 14, comes as his action franchise marks its 25th anniversary. The 57-year-old actor will also be seen firing away at bad guys in the upcoming sequels "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" and "Red 2," both due later this year. But Willis believes "the real topic is diminished" when observers link Holly-

wood entertainment with high-profile mass shootings. "No one commits a crime because they saw a film. There's nothing to support that," Willis said.

"We're not making movies about people that have gone berserk, or gone nuts. Those kind of movies wouldn't last very long at all." □



In this Aug. 14, 2009 file photo, Levon Helm performs with the Levon Helm band during the Heroes of Woodstock concert at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts in Bethel, N.Y.

Associated Press

Elton John, Mumford & Sons to pay tribute to Helm

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Elton John and Mumford & Sons will hit the Grammys stage to pay tribute to Levon Helm.

The Recording Academy announced Wednesday that T Bone Burnett, Mavis Staples, Zac Brown and Brittany Howard of Alabama Shakes will also perform "The Weight" at Sunday's

awards ceremony.

Helm was the drummer and singer for The Band. He died of complications from cancer last year at age 71. The performers will sing the song during the show's in memoriam tribute, which honors musicians who died last year. Grammys producer Ken Ehrlich said the lineup of performers is a representation of Helm's diverse sound. □

Abrams gives few hints about 'Star Wars'

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A newly announced "Star Wars" sequel was on everyone's mind when J.J. Abrams took the stage Wednesday at a Las Vegas video game conference, but he made only a sideways mention of the film he has been hired to direct.

The reference was a throw-away joke from his last franchise reboot.

Talking about the importance of embroidering films with subtle detail, the science fiction director played a scene from his 2009 "Star Trek" film and freeze-framed to reveal a familiar "Star Wars" robot peeking out from amid the space junk.

"So they're looking at all the debris that's out there, and curiously, it's R2D2,"

he said, drawing a roar of laughter.

Gabe Newell, president of video game developer Valve, shared a stage with Abrams at the Design, Innovate, Communicate, Entertain Summit at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. "So now I have to go back through your movies looking at all the debris to figure out what movie you're going to direct next?" Newell asked.

Abrams has given die-hard fans few clues about his vision for the seventh live-action "Star Wars" film since he was announced as its director in January.

He has become a trusted steward of beloved fantasy universes after directing well-received additions to the "Star Trek" and "Mission: Impossible" franchises.



Producer and director J.J. Abrams listens during a keynote discussion with Valve president and co-founder Gabe Newell at the D.I.C.E. Summit, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

"Star Wars" creator George Lucas opened the door to the latest round of spin-offs when he sold his Lucasfilm empire to The Walt Disney Co. for \$4.05 billion last fall.

the summer of 2015. Last month, Abrams told a group of reporters that he wanted to make sure the sequel was "something that touches people."

On Wednesday, he did give his audience of nerds and gamers one revelation when he announced his intention to collaborate on movies and videos with Newell—the man behind the gaming hits "Portal," "Half-Life" and "Counter-Strike."

"There's an idea that we had for a game that we'd like to develop," he said.

Abrams' development company Bad Robot Interactive has released several apps related to his movies. Newell said his company would like to work with Abrams on a movie adaptation of "Portal" or "Half-Life." □

The company is planning three sequels and two peripheral movies focusing on characters.

"Episode VII" is tentatively scheduled for release in

Convenient Morality



FRANK BRUNI

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Last week, the Obama administration proposed a further tweak to its rules about insurance coverage of contraception, trying to quiet religious organizations' complaints that the edict tramples on their beliefs. Roman Catholic officials have been especially vociferous. Their moral conviction, they insist, cannot be slave to secular convention.

Except, that is, when it works to their advantage. When it profits them. And this two-tracked approach was illustrated by another recent news story, one that flickered onto and then off the public's radar more quickly than it should have, and deserves a closer look.

The news story brought to light a wrongful-death suit by a widow, Jeremy Stodghill, in regard to his wife and the twin 28-week-old fetuses inside her when she died in a Catholic hospital, St. Thomas More, in Canon City, Colo.

The hospital's lawyers argued that the woman's death couldn't have been prevented. As to whether proper medical attention might have yielded the delivery of two healthy baby boys, lawyers argued that the question was ultimately irrelevant, because wrongful death can apply only to people and, legally speaking, fetuses aren't human lives.

This isn't how the Catholic Church is supposed to see things. It's the opposite. The church staunchly opposes abortion, holding that life begins at conception, and has even raised concerns about the morning-after pill. And the fetuses inside Lori Stodghill, 31, were four weeks past what's generally considered viability.

Lawyers by nature use the best strategies available to them, in a brutal arena where failing to do so puts clients at a disadvantage. And the Colorado litigation is just one case involving one Catholic hospital, which may not have gotten any green light for its arguments from high-ranking church officials. In fact, Colorado's three Catholic bishops on Monday released a statement that articulated their objection to the hospital's legal approach and said it should be abandoned henceforth.

But the hospital isn't some random outlier. It's run by Catholic Health Initiatives, which operates 78 hospitals in more than a dozen states. And a habit of clinging to a religious identity one moment and abandoning it the next is visible beyond this case, especially in the church's management of its child sexual abuse crisis.

We've been getting a fresh and galling peek into that with

the court-compelled release of documents from the Los Angeles Archdiocese, which engaged in a pattern of willful blindness and outright cover-up so egregious that the current archbishop, Jose Gomez, took the shocking step last week of publicly reprimanding his predecessor, Cardinal Roger Mahony.

The documents show that Mahony and his lieutenants repeatedly failed to report allegations to law enforcement officials and urged accused priests to leave or stay out of the state, lest they face prosecution. They decided, in short, that the church's representatives and reputation mattered more than justice: that the church could hold itself above laws that governed everybody else.

This was hardly isolated behavior. Around the country, the church has beaten back lawsuits by priests' victims and tried not to furnish information about priests' wrongdoing by claiming that such scrutiny violates the free exercise of religion, said Jeffrey Anderson, a Minnesota lawyer who has represented hundreds of victims over three decades.

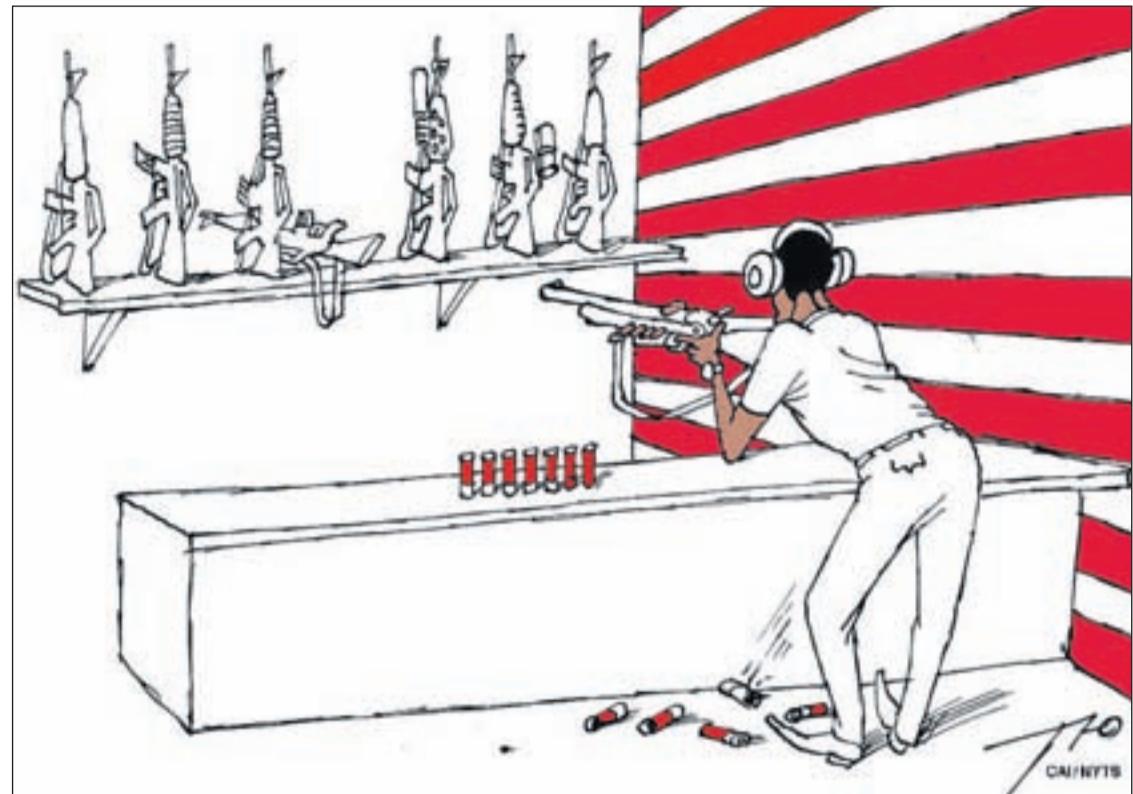
"It's audacious, it's bold and it's across the board," he said. But the church has simultaneously reserved the right to behave just like any other institution, leaning on legal technicalities, smearing victims and demonstrating no more compassion than a tobacco company might show. "In the name of Jesus," Anderson told me, "they do things that Jesus would abhor."

They do things erratically, that's for sure. From my extensive reporting on the sexual abuse crisis in the 1990s, I don't recall any great push to excommunicate priests who forced themselves on kids. But when Sister Margaret McBride, in 2009, was part of a Phoenix hospital's decision to abort an 11-week-old fetus inside a 27-year-old woman whose life was gravely endangered by the pregnancy, she indeed suffered excommunication (later reversed).

So a fetus matters more than the ravaged psyche of a raped adolescent? And McBride deserved harsher rebuke than a rapist? It's hard not to conclude that a church run by men shows them more mercy than it does women (or, for that matter, children). And it's hard to keep track: Just when is the church of this world, and when not? It inserts itself into political debates, trying to shape legislation to its ethics. But it also demands exemption: from taxes, from accountability, from health care directives.

And in the Colorado wrongful-death case, the hospital suddenly adopted the courts', not the church's, definition of life. Only now, with that argument already made, is Catholic Health Initiatives saying it made a moral error. A district court rejected Jeremy Stodghill's wrongful-death claims. He and his lawyer, Beth Krulewitch, have appealed to the state's Supreme Court.

One final verdict is already in. On the charge of self-serving hypocrisy, the church is guilty. □



Academic Counseling Racket



JOE NOCERA

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On the day after the Super Bowl, I got a call from Michael McAdoo, a 22-year-old defensive lineman for the winning Baltimore Ravens. I had been expecting his call for several weeks, ever since the North Carolina Court of Appeals refused to revive his lawsuit against the NCAA and the University of North Carolina, where he had played for two years before being declared permanently ineligible.

Though he didn't dress for the big game — he's been injured most of his short professional career — McAdoo had attended the team's practices and meetings; he told me he'd been too busy to call earlier.

Athletes almost never win lawsuits against the NCAA. There is, after all, no constitutional right to play college sports, and because the NCAA is a "voluntary" organization made up of member institutions, courts are loath to interfere, even when the rules seem unfair.

In 2008, in his first semester at North Carolina, McAdoo had asked a former tutor to help him write citations for a paper, something he was unsure about. With the due date fast approaching, the woman — whom he wasn't supposed to talk to because she was no longer an official tutor — essentially wrote the citations herself. Several years later,

in the middle of a burgeoning "scandal" involving more than a dozen Carolina football players, the email exchange between McAdoo and the former tutor was unearthed, and his actions were reported to the NCAA and the school's honor court.

The honor court ruled that McAdoo should be suspended for a semester. Never one to show mercy, the NCAA went further, barring him from ever playing college football again. McAdoo sued to get reinstated, but the case was tossed.

Because his college career ended prematurely, he signed with the Ravens for the professional minimum (which, at \$450,000 a year, is admittedly none too shabby).

When stories like McAdoo's burst into public view, the athlete is almost always cast as the villain, a cheater gaming the academy. But, in this case, McAdoo was the true victim. The real scandal is what goes on under the rubric of "academic counseling."

It is not news, of course, that universities accept athletes who read at the fifth-grade level or worse; quite often academic counseling is remedial. But McAdoo wasn't in that category. He had been an OK student in high school, and his mother, a schoolteacher, was adamant that he get a college education. He told his recruiters he wanted to major in criminal justice.

Once he got on campus, however, he was quickly informed by his academic counselors that North Carolina didn't have a criminal justice major. According to McAdoo, his counselor picked his major, African-American studies, because it wouldn't interfere with football practice.

Among the first classes he was "assigned" (as he phrases it) was a Swahili course, an "independent studies" class taught by the department chairman, Julius Nyang'oro. "There wasn't any class," McAdoo recalled. "You sign up. You write the paper. You get credit. I had never seen anything like it." He never once met

his professor. Despite the strange circumstances, he researched and wrote the paper. It was that paper that got him in the trouble with the NCAA.

"All the academic counselors knew about the paper classes" — as they were called — "and they all steered athletes to them," says Mary Willingham, a former academic counselor at the university. But when the NCAA went after McAdoo, there was no mention of the phony classes. The school certainly never mentioned them, and as for the NCAA, all it cared about was whether McAdoo had committed academic fraud for getting citation help in a class that never met. McAdoo's contention — that he had no reason to believe he had done anything wrong, because he had simply done what he'd been told to do — fell on deaf ears. His college career was sacrificed so that the NCAA could maintain its long-standing pretense that college athletes are supposed to be students first.

The paper classes were eventually exposed by The News & Observer, after which the university asked former Gov. James Martin of North Carolina to conduct an investigation.

Martin, who issued his report a few months ago, found that 216 courses were problematic, and that as many as 560 grades had been changed. He laid all the problems at the feet of Nyang'oro (who had earlier been allowed to retire), and one department colleague. Martin insisted that the scandal wasn't strictly an athletic one, because nonathletes also took some of the paper classes. Well, maybe.

As for Michael McAdoo, the public humiliation still stings. "I had days when I was so depressed, I could barely get out of bed," he told me.

He feels that he put his trust in an institution that ultimately betrayed him. "I would still like to get a college degree someday," he said. "But not at the University of North Carolina. They just wasted my time." □



Former middleweight boxer Michael Olajide Jr. works out fashion model Lily Kwong at the Aerospace High Performance Center in New York, Feb. 4, 2013.

(Robert Caplin/The New York Times)

COURTNEY RUBIN

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK — For models, former boxer Michael Olajide Jr. is the heavyweight of trainers — the go-to guy for girls who have to get runway-ready in a hurry.

For this fashion week, he trained some 15 models needing to "sleekify," as he called it, to squeeze into sample sizes. (Most common problem: the hips.) In preparation for last September's shows, roughly another dozen catwalk hopefuls hit Aerospace High Performance Center, the spare, airy gym in the West Village that Olajide owns with former ballerina Leila Fazel.

Olajide's not-a-dry-shirt-left-in-the-room workouts feature rapid-fire choreographed punching sequences (clients punch the air, not one another's lucrative faces), mixed with jump-rope intervals not seen on any playground. One example: a riff on speedskating that requires landing with one heel crossed behind the opposite leg. Classes can sound like hailstorms, the red jump ropes thwacking the floor. The three-quarter-pound ropes are nicknamed the Rainmaker, for their sweat-inducing potential.

"I like to say there's no such thing as cold fusion," Olajide said. "You've got to get your body hot if you want to burn calories and lose that weight." He contends that jumping rope gets the body moving faster than it can with any other exercise, turning the metabolic oven "up to grill."

Olajide, 49, a highly ranked middleweight boxer until an injury left him legally

blind in the right eye and ended his career, has been attracting the fashion crowd since his days teaching at Equinox and Chelsea Piers in the 1990s. (He met his wife of 16 years, graphic designer Maryann Levesque, at Equinox on West 76th Street.) He doesn't know exactly what lured the first models to his classes, though it may help

Getting models into fighting shape

sharp.

Eventually, the 6-foot, 165-pound Olajide ended up training supermodels Iman and Linda Evangelista. The latter recommended him to a fashion photographer, who in turn referred him to Adriana Lima. Lima, 31, has been working out with him for seven years; after the birth of her second child in September, he coached her six hours a day, seven days a week, for five weeks to prep for her own title fight: the Victoria's Secret fashion show. Lima's case — "needing perpetual motion," he said — was extreme; most of his exercise prescriptions are an hour a day, sometimes two.

Olajide acknowledged that the weight can come back quickly once the workout (and preshow diets) stop.

"Like boxers, they have a performance weight and

weeks, she has sometimes worked out at Aerospace twice a day, trimming an inch and a half from her hips.

Matonhodze said she enjoyed "skipping like a little girl" at the gym. Of Olajide, she said, "He's so lovely and welcoming, and he's got a lot of humility."

During sessions, Olajide sizes up models ("my fighters") as he would opponents before bouts, looking for signs of weakness and self-doubt.

"I've had to make weight myself — I understand the task is just so weighty that they need support," he said.

"It's more than just working out at that point." Moves change about every 90 seconds, partly because mental fatigue often comes before physical.

Exercises that trim mere mortals can be career-

lowy, wispy, flowing."

Caitlin Holleran, 16, who in October wore a fitted floor-length chiffon dress on the Yves Saint Laurent runway in Paris, had to shrink her hips back down by two inches this season to match the measurement (34 inches) listed on her modeling card. Among other things, the type of power vinyasa yoga she'd been doing was building too much muscle, she said, adding bulk.

Holleran struggled to master the jumps, but even doing "the basic ones" still allowed her to hit her goal "crazy fast," she said, thanks to four or five classes a week, plus personal training sessions.

Three weeks of Olajide's method worked for Drake Burnette, 27, who wanted to shrink her hips an inch and a half for her first attempt at Fashion Week work (she just signed with an agency in the fall). "It's hell during the class, but you feel amazing and can't wait to get back," she said. Chris Gay, the president of Marilyn Agency, New York, said the modeling agency has had "a lot of success with sending our girls to his classes prior to fashion week."

"It's not magic," he added. "It's a crazy difficult workout, and Michael works them really hard."

At Aerospace, in the days before the shows, models wear leggings so they don't end up with welts if a jump rope accidentally grazes them.

Concentration is a good thing, but a wrinkled forehead while doing so is bad news.

"Relax the face," Olajide tells them, his velvety voice calm and sometimes so soft it could, ironically, cause strain just to hear it.

Later, he explained: "If you furrow the brow for an hour or two hours every day, it's going to stay that way. I can't have them leave here with lines that weren't there before — they won't stay employed for very long, and neither will I." Then he mused, "Is a furrowed brow better than a unibrow?" □



Former middleweight boxer Michael Olajide has been training runway models to help them squeeze into sample sizes for Fashion Week.

(Robert Caplin/The New York Times)

that he's always dressed with flair.

For off-duty clothes, he favors Jean Paul Gaultier. In his boxing days he designed his own \$2,000 white silk satin robe with samurai shoulders and a three-headed dragon snake-spitting flames. And over his blind eye, he wears patches that he has sketched and had cast: a gunmetal eye of Horus, an ancient Egyptian symbol of protection; a gold squarish oval with rivets and a mesh strain; and a silver starburst he loves but rarely wears because its rays are too

an everyday weight," he said of models. With each season, it can get harder to snap back to sample size. "It becomes: Will they allow themselves mentally to go to that level of discomfort? How hungry are they?"

British model Nyasha Matonhodze, 18, started working out at Olajide's gym at her agency's recommendation. "As models, we know that we have to be, some would say, ridiculously thin," she said. "It's not exactly a woman's shape, but it is high fashion."

During the past three

maiming for catwalkers. Push-ups are out — developing the chest is bad news — as are squats and lunges, which make the derriere too round to fit into the clothes. (Lingerie models are allowed lunges because they are allowed curves, he said.)

Ab exercises also are rationed. "When they really burn the fat you'll see a six-pack, which is not usually the goal," Olajide said. "You want flat, but if you're too cut, defined and hard, that can be counterproductive. We want long, wil-